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## REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

*The History of Scotland.* By P. Fraser Tytler, Esq. Vol. VIII. 8vo, pp. 451. Edinburgh, W. Tait.

THE continuation of this sterling and valuable history brings us only farther proofs of the author's unwearied and successful research, and of the new light he is thence enabled to shed upon events which, through political, religious, and partisan misrepresentation, have hitherto evaded the truth, and assumed every form and aspect except that which really belonged to them. We have so frequently pointed out Mr. Tytler's merits, however, that it would be needless repetition to go again over the same ground with the same notes of praise. The volume before us comprehends the regency of Morton, and the reign of James VI. to the date of his mother's death, viz. from 1573 to 1587,—a period of singular interest to Scotland, within whose narrow limits was fought, by every means of intrigue, corruption, terror, and bloodshed, not only the rival pretensions of France and England, but the grand struggle between the Romish and Protestant faiths, on either side of which were enlisted the policies of all the great states of Europe. No wonder that the poor country was torn by factions and rebellions, by raids and treasons, and executions and murders.

In investigating the circumstances of these troubled times, Mr. Tytler, besides the more common access to public records and state-papers, has been much assisted by reference to a remarkable collection of letters and documents (*temp.* James VI.) in the possession of Sir George Warrender, which appears to have been partially consulted and commended by Robertson, and which contains some holographs of Queen Elizabeth; and also by consulting three folio volumes of MSS. belonging to Sir Cuthbert Sharp, consisting chiefly of original correspondence of Sir Robert Bowes, the well-known emissary of the English queen. From these sources much curious information has been elicited, and such a picture of affairs exhibited as seems to strike us more forcibly than ever with the strange features of the actors on the public stage, and of the extraordinary drama in which they played their tragical parts. The Presbyterian ministers, bearing their sovereigns in their palaces and denouncing them from their pulpits, display a fierceness and power which no later day can match, and exhibit religious zeal and intolerance which one could hardly think belonged to the Protestant faith, whatever may have been alleged against the tyranny of the Roman church. The "Kirk" stood as high on its plain Presbyterian stool, as ever the Papacy did on its throne with tiara-crowned brow. But we shall not dwell on these vexatious questions, nor upon the contests of noble conspirators for possession of the young king's person. Mar and Morton are superseded by Lennox and Arran, and Morton and Gowrie, &c. expiate their failures on the scaffold. At this epoch died the famous George Buchanan; and a literary journal is bound to notice the account of his death.

"In the midst of the commotions which fol-

lowed the Raid of Ruthven occurred the death of Buchanan; a man justly entitled to the epithet great, if the true *criteria* of such a character are originality of genius, and the impression left by it upon his age. His intellect, naturally fearless and inquisitive, caught an early and eager hold of the principles of the Reformation; and having gone abroad, and fallen into the toils of the inquisition, persecution completed what nature had begun. In politics he was a republican; and his famous treatise *De Jure Regni apud Scotos*, was the first work which boldly and eloquently advocated those principles of popular liberty, then almost new, and now so familiar to Europe. In religion he was at first a leveller; and with the keen and vindictive temper which distinguished him, exerted every effort to overthrow the Roman Catholic church; but in his later years, when the struggle took place between Episcopacy and Presbyterianism, his sentiments became more moderate or indifferent; and latterly he took no part in those busy intrigues of the kirk and its supporters, which terminated in the Raid of Ruthven. Of his poetical works, so varied in style and so excellent in execution, it is difficult to speak too highly; for seldom did a finer and more impassioned vein of poetry flow through a Latinity that, without servile imitation, approached so near to the Augustan age. In his history of his native country he is great, but unequal: his was not the age of severe and critical investigation; the school in which he studied was that of Livy and the historians of ancient Rome, in which individuality and truth is often lost in the breadth and generality of its pictures. But in their excellencies, he has equalled and sometimes surpassed them. The calm flow of his narrative, his lucid arrangement, the strong sense, originality, and depth of his reflections, and the ease and vigour of his unshackled style, need not dread a comparison with the best authors of the ancient world. The point where he fails is that where they too are weakest—the cardinal virtue of truth. It is melancholy to find so much fable embalmed and made attractive in his earlier annals; and when he descends later, and writes as a contemporary, it is easy to detect that party-spirit and unhappy obliquity of vision, which distorts or will not see the truth. In an interesting letter quoted by the best of his biographers,\* and written not long before his death, he tells his friend, that having reached his seventy-fifth year, and struck upon that rock beyond which nothing remains for man but labour and sorrow, it was his only care to remove out of the world with as little noise as possible. With this view he abstracted himself from all public business; left the court at Stirling, and retired to Edinburgh, where, on the 28th September, 1582, his wishes were almost too literally fulfilled: for amid the tumult and agitation which succeeded the Raid of Ruthven, his death took place in his 76th year, unnoticed, unrecorded, and accompanied by such destitution, that he left not enough to defray his funeral. He was buried at the public expense in the cemetery of the Grey Friars: but his country gave him

no monument; and at this day the spot is unknown where rest the ashes of one of the greatest of her sons."\*

The miserable thralldom and condition of the poor prisoner, Mary Queen of Scots, ever freshly appeals to the feelings of the heart; for, whatever were her errors, she was made the victim of the vindictive and the wicked, and dearly atoned for them all, had they been tenfold greater. Espionage, and forgery, and villany of every kind, beset her path, and tempted her into the toils of her ruthless enemies. A passage relating to Babington's plot may illustrate these horrors. When Mary's attempt at escape was frustrated, and she was led back from the chase a captive to Tixall (August 3, 1586), it is stated:—

"Whilst this scene of arrest was acting in the fields, Mr. Waad had arrived at Chartley, where he broke open her repositories, seized her caskets, papers, letters, and ciphers; and was, soon after, joined by Paulet, who took possession of her money. All was then packed up and sealed, preparatory to being sent to Elizabeth, who now appears to have directed every step. This princess was overjoyed at the success which had attended the arrest of Mary: she wrote to Paulet, addressing him as the most faithful of her subjects; promised him a reward *non omnibus datum*; and, soon after, sent a new message, eagerly desiring him to write the whole story of every thing done to Mary; not that she suspected (as she said) he had omitted any part of his duty, but 'simply that she might take pleasure in the reading thereof.' Above all things, Elizabeth urged the safe keeping, and immediate transmission to her, of the caskets found in the Queen of Scots' repositories. These, and the things contained in them, she declared were, in her esteem, of far greater value than Nau or Curle; and, not content with a written message, she deputed a special envoy from Windsor to look after these treasures and bring them at once. Shortly before this, Elizabeth had a new triumph in the seizure of Babington and his companions. Till now, they had escaped the officers who were in pursuit; but driven at last by hunger from the woods into the open country, they were apprehended near Harrow, and carried in triumph to London, amid the shouts and execration of the citizens. There was no want of evidence against them, and their own confessions corroborated all; but after the day for their trials had been fixed, and every thing seemed ready, the English queen suddenly caught alarm, from the idea, that if the charge made by the crown lawyers, and the evidence of the witnesses, deeply implicated Mary, her own life was not safe. Elizabeth had not yet resolved on the trial of the Scottish queen, and the evidence against her was most imperfect. Her two secretaries, Nau and Curle, had as yet confessed nothing which materially involved their mistress. No original minutes of the letters

\* "Irving's Life of Buchanan, p. 309. There appears to have been placed over his grave a common flat stone or headstone, with some inscription; but this, from neglect, was in process of years covered up by weeds and soil; and the spot where it once was is not now known."

\* Irving's Life of Buchanan, p. 273.

to Babington had been found. Even if Mary's trial were to take place, it was clear that a considerable interval must elapse between her arraignment and the execution of the conspirators; and, in this interval, thought Elizabeth, what might not be attempted against her own life? Though some of the leading conspirators were taken, yet many desperate men might still be lurking about court; and so intensely did she feel upon this subject, that, on the evening of the 12th September, the very day before the trial, she sent repeated messages and letters to Burghley, commanding that, in the 'indictment' and in the evidence, there should be no enlargement of the Queen of Scots' crime. It was her favourite, Sir Christopher Hatton the vice-chamberlain, who transmitted these wishes to Burghley; and the reason he gave was, that Elizabeth felt that it might be perilous to herself, if any thing were given in evidence which touched Mary 'criminally for her life.' Amid these alarms the trials proceeded; and Babington, Ballard, and Savage, with the rest of the conspirators, being found guilty, were executed on the 20th and 21st of September, with a studied cruelty, which, it is revolting to find, proceeded from Elizabeth's special orders. She had at first suggested to her council, that some 'new device' should be adopted to enhance their tortures, and strike more terror into the people; to which it was answered by Burghley, that the manner of the execution prescribed by law would be fully as terrible as any other new device, if the hangman took care 'to protract the action' to the extremity of their pains, and to the sight of the multitude who beheld it. The executioner, by special direction, did so: but the sight of seven men cut up alive, after being partially strangled, was found to excite the rage and disgust of the multitude; and next day the second seven were permitted to be executed after a milder fashion."

The historical remarks on this subject are very cogent. Mr. T. says:—

"That Mary was a party to this plot, so far as it involved a project for her escape, may be assumed as certain; indeed, she appears to have admitted it, by implication at least, on her trial. But the question remains, and it is one deeply affecting Elizabeth and her ministers—was she cognisant of the resolution to assassinate the English queen? did she permit or encourage this atrocious design? After a careful research into the history of this conspiracy, and an anxious desire to procure and weigh every document connected with it, I believe Mary's solemn assertion to be true—that she neither gave any encouragement to the plot, nor was aware of its existence. Hume, who pronounces Mary guilty, has written on this conspiracy with all his inimitable clearness and plausibility; but, unfortunately, with much of his usual carelessness as to facts and dates, which enter deeply into the question, and which a little trouble might have enabled him to discover and to rectify. Dr. Lingard, in an acute note added to the last edition of his History, has supported Mary's innocence; and Dr. Robertson, without interrupting his narrative by critical remarks, has assumed it. Referring the reader to the works of these eminent men, I shall now briefly give some additional facts and observations, from which there arises the strongest presumption, if not absolute proof, of the innocence of the Queen of Scots.—First. It is evident, from the history of this conspiracy as given in the text, that Philipps the decipherer had much, almost every thing, in his power as to the proof of Mary's guilt or innocence. He was admitted by Walsingham into

all 'the secrets of the cause' (to use Paulet's phrase); he enjoyed the full confidence of this minister and his royal mistress. It does not appear that any other person about Walsingham or the Queen of England could decipher. There are letters in the State-paper Office and in the British Museum, which prove that whenever any intercepted letters in cipher fell into the hands of Elizabeth or secretary Walsingham, they were forthwith sent to Philipps 'to be made English'; and it is certain that he did decipher, and retain in his hands for ten days, the letter in cipher from Mary to Babington, upon a copy of which that princess was convicted. It is evident from all this, that Philipps had the power and the opportunity to alter the letters of Babington or of Mary which were sent him to be deciphered; and owing to the ignorance of his employers in this intricate science, he might have done so without much, or almost any, fear of discovery. But it may be asked, Could he be so base as to garble these letters? or was Walsingham so lost to all sense of justice and honour as to have permitted it? To this I reply, that there is preserved in the State-paper Office a letter or petition of Philipps to the Earl of Salisbury, which proves, that in one noted instance he had availed himself of his talents and opportunity to a base and unscrupulous extent. In this case, he did not add to or alter any letter placed in his hands; but he did much more. He composed, or created, an entirely imaginary correspondence. He wrote letters under the name of an imaginary person to a real person, who enjoyed the confidence of the Spanish government, and who, by the forgery of these letters, was betrayed into a correspondence with Philipps, who made his own uses of his base contrivance. All this he acknowledges in a letter to the Earl of Salisbury, which is an undoubted original, written in his own hand, pleading in extenuation of the forgery, that it was done for the benefit of the state. Such being the unscrupulous character of this person, is it any overstrained supposition, that such a man would have felt little hesitation in altering the letters of the Queen of Scots to suit the purposes of her enemies? But here it is asked (and the argument is insisted on by Hume), would a man of such high honour and probity as Walsingham, have been guilty of so base a proceeding? As to this alleged probity and honour, Hume, it is evident, trusted to the common eulogies which, in popular works, have been bestowed on Elizabethan statesmen. Happily, however, the correspondence of Elizabeth's ministers remains to test this praise; and Walsingham has left many letters, which prove incontestably that in working out any object which he was persuaded was for the good of the state, he was quite as crafty and unscrupulous as his brethren. In those dark times, the scale of moral duty and honour was miserably low: justice, truth, religion, were names common in men's mouths, but slightly regarded in their actual dealings. To open letters, to rob an ambassador's desk, to corrupt his servants, to forge his signature, were all allowable methods of furthering the business of the state. The reader is already well aware of the little value placed on human life, of the frequency of private assassination, and the encouragement given to it by the highest statesmen of the age. To argue on the honour and probity of such men,—as we should be entitled to do, had they lived in our own times (lex as this age may be in some things),—must lead to error. Nay, Hume himself was aware of, and states one instance in which Walsingham acted with a total

disregard of all high principle. This historian tells us, that the English secretary, when he had intercepted and opened Mary's letters to Babington, added to them a postscript in the same cipher, in which she desired him to inform her of the names of the conspirators; hoping thus to elicit from Babington the whole secrets of the plot. Was it possible that any man of common probity could have so acted? and what are we to think of his letter quoted in the text, in which, in obedience to the English queen's commands, he solicited Paulet to put Mary privately to death? Could a man of the slightest probity have written that letter? It appears, then, that Philipps and Walsingham were persons capable of such a course as garbling and altering Mary's letters: it is evident that Philipps had the power and the talent to do so; and we have seen, from the history of the conspiracy given in the text, that both were anxious to convict her and bring her to punishment. But it may be said, All this is presumption: where is the proof that they added anything to these letters? In answer to this may be first quoted, the forged postscript endorsed in Philipps' handwriting, "Postscript of the Scottish Queen's letter to Babington," inquiring the names of the six gentlemen. Hume, following Camden, asserts that Walsingham added a postscript of this import to one of Mary's letters to Babington. It is singular, however, that it should not have struck this historian, that no such postscript appeared in any of Mary's alleged letters produced at the trial; and had this charge, which involves so grave a delinquency in Walsingham, rested on the single assertion of Camden, one would certainly have hesitated to believe it. But the case is altered by the discovery (mentioned in the text, p. 326), of this postscript in cipher, endorsed by Philipps, and preserved in the State-paper Office. Now, such a postscript was either what it purports to be—an original of Mary's, or a true copy of such an original, or a forgery. If it were an original of Mary's, or a true copy of such, why, it may be asked, was it not produced against her at the trial? It connected her with the six conspirators, who were Babington's associates; and in this light would have been decided evidence against her. But no use was made of it at the trial; and it may be conjectured, from this suppression, that, after having exercised his skill in fabricating it, Philipps changed his scheme for the conviction of the Scottish queen, and introduced the sentences connecting her with the six gentlemen who were to assassinate the English queen into the body of the letters, rather than in a postscript at the end. In the next place, although there is no direct evidence by which we can detect Philipps or Walsingham in the act of garbling and altering Mary's letters, yet strong presumptive evidence is furnished by the circumstances of the trial itself; and this even after making allowance for the partiality and disregard of justice which appears in all the judicial proceedings of those times. It is evident that Mary could only be proved guilty by the production of her own letters; by the production of the minutes, or rough drafts of these in her own hand; by the evidence of her secretaries, Nau and Curle, who wrote the letters; or by the evidence of Philipps, who deciphered them. The limits to which I must confine these remarks will not permit me to go into detail; but it may be observed, that on each of these modes of proof, the evidence against the Scottish queen either totally fails, or is defective."

And after some further interesting details:

'It is therefore evident, that the utmost exertions, and the strictest search on the part of Mary's enemies, directed by all the skill and vigour of Walsingham, and carried into effect by the unscrupulous artifices and ingenuity of Philipps, had not been able to find the smallest scrap of evidence under Mary's hand, which could connect her with the plot against Queen Elizabeth's life. Last of all, we have in this 'Summary' the admission that all the letters (which includes Babington's among the rest) were addressed not to Mary, but either to Nau or Curle—that Mary relied on Nau and Curle to decipher them,—and that the queen's alleged letter to Babington was put in cipher either by Nau or Curle. If, then (to sum up these proofs), Babington's alleged letter was not addressed to Mary—if she had nothing to do with deciphering it—if the alleged answer in cipher was not made by her—if there were no minutes in her hand for that answer—if Nau and Curle's declarations do not connect her with the plot against the queen's life—and if Philipps, whose evidence, under such a lack of proof, could alone have supplied the deficiency, was not brought forward,—it appears difficult to resist the conclusion, that Mary was implicated solely in a plot for her escape; that she was entirely ignorant of the project for Elizabeth's assassination; and that she was the victim of forged letters manufactured by her enemies. It would be easy to corroborate this conclusion by some additional arguments, drawn from the successive declarations of Nau, and other letters or papers preserved in the British Museum and State-paper Office; but enough has been said upon the point; and any reader who wishes to pursue the inquiry, will find ample materials in these two noble repositories of original information. He will there find the lists, notes, and arguments which Lord Burghley drew up previous to the trial of the Scottish queen; upon which I cannot enter,—but the whole have been examined and carefully weighed, and the result is, a confirmation of the opinion of Mary's innocence."

The following extracts from the Appendix, an excellent series of proofs and illustrations, are selected as illustrative of the times. When Morton was committed to custody,—

"The town of Edinburgh, and many others, offered liberally for his delivery; nevertheless, he always refused to be delivered in any sort, other than by the order of the laws. Mr. John Craig, in his sermon on the Sunday following, did, upon the leading of his text, inveigh greatly against false accusations. Whereupon Captain James Stewart, as it is informed for truth, threatened him with his dagger drawn, charging him to forbear to touch him, or otherwise he should receive his reward."

A letter from Randolph to Lords Hunsdon and Huntingdon, Edin. 16th March, 1580-1, details other circumstances which led to Morton's execution.

"Angus' intent I know not. Yesterday it was determined in council he should be commanded to ward beyond the river of Spey. Carmichael, and the Prior, and Mains, are commanded not to come at Angus, on pain of forfeiture of their goods, *ipso facto*; and means is made to apprehend them, but yet none of them are taken. The Laird of Whittingham is boasted to wear the boots, but I hear it will not be so. Spot hath had a sight of them, as I hear. \* \* All the court is set on mischief. Captain Stewart taketh upon him as a prince, and no man so forward as he. I spake, on Tuesday, long with the king. There passed nothing on his part from him, but very good

speeches of her majesty, which I exhorted him to shew forth in actions and in deed. He promiset much, if the meeting of the commissioners be. I charged more his council than himself the unkindness lately shewed unto the Q. my mistress, that no one point of her requests could be yielded, specially for the Earl of Morton, that was, [not] so much as his liberty upon sufficient caution, until the day were appointed for his trial, might be granted. Whereat he fell again in speech of Mr. Archibald Douglas; and I answered him with partial dealings, and favour shewed to Sir James Balfour. I told him in what house he lieth in, between the church and castle, upon the right hand. I told who had spoken with him,—Lennox, Seton, and others; and that means would be made shortly to bring him into his own presence. I spake again of the band in the green box, containing the names of all the chief persons consenting to the king's murder, which Sir James either hath, or can tell of. I told him that I heard daily of new men apprehended, examined, and boasted with the boots, to find matter against the Earl of Morton; and he that was privy to the murder, and in whose house the king was killed, and was therefore condemned by parliament, was suffered to live unpunished and untouched, in his chief and principal town."

\* \* Randolph then states that he asked leave to depart from Scotland; adding, that after another farewell interview with the king, he hoped 'it would be the last that he ever should have to do with that king and council.' 'I have again this day spoken with Angus's trusty friend, who gave me some notes touching the bands, and is gone unto him. I have given therein my advice. What will be farther done I know not; but sure I am Angus will not obey the charge for putting himself in ward. \* \* George Fleck had yesternight the boots, and is said to have confessed that the Earl of Morton was privy to the poisoning of the Earl of Atholl, whereon they have sent for the Earl of Morton's chamberlain, Sandy Jerdan, from Dumbarton. They have also in hand Sandy —, George Fleck's servant, whom they suppose to know many of Morton's secrets."

The boots, as instruments of torment, were fearful extractors of accusation and confessions, false or true. A specimen of the pulpit-daring may be gathered from the subjoined account of a sermon preached by Mr. John Durie in the cathedral church of Edinburgh, upon the occasion of the Duke of Guise sending a present of horses to King James.—(It is in a letter from Sir H. Woddrington to Walsingham, 26th May 1582.)

"I pray you what should move Guise, that bloody persecutor and enemy unto all truth, that pillar of the pope, to send this present by one of his trustiest servants unto our king? Not for any love: no, no, his pretence is known. And I beseech the Lord the church of Scotland feel it not oversoon. The king's majesty was persuaded not to receive it; for why? What amity or friendship can we look for at his hands, who hath been the bloodiest persecutor of the professors of the truth in all France? Neither was there ever any notable murder or havoc of God's people at any time in all France but he was at it in person; and yet for all this, the duke and Arran will needs have our king to take a present from him. If God did threaten the captivity and spoil of Jerusalem because that their king, Hezekiah, did receive a letter and present from the king of Babylon, shall we think to be free committing the like, or rather worse? And because you, my lords, which both do see me, and even at this present hear

me,—I say, because you shall not be hereafter excusable,—I tell it you with tears. I feel such confusion to be like to ensue that I fear me will be the subversion and ruin of the preaching of God's evangel here in the church of Scotland. I am the more plain with you, because I know there is some of you in the same action with the rest. I know I shall be called to an account for these words here spoken; but let them do with this carcass of mine what they will, for I know my soul is in the hands of the Lord, and therefore I will speak, and that to your condemnation, unless you speedily return.' And then, in the prayers made, he prayed unto the Lord, either to convert or confound the duke. The sermon was very long, godly, and plain, to the great comfort and rejoice of the most number that heard it, or do hear of it."

With this we conclude our sketch, rather than our review; for we have merely copied a few traits, and left the entire volume, important as it is, to the consideration of every intelligent reader.

*Karah Kaplan; or, the Koordish Chief.* By the Hon. Charles Stuart Savile. 3 vols. Bentley.

THIS is the production of one who has evidently not only travelled much in the countries in which he has placed the scene of his story, but who has also studied the manners and customs of Oriental nations with a very observant eye. *Karah Kaplan* is a romance containing incidents of such interest, that the reader is carried through it in a state of agreeable suspense. Still, however, we should not be acting with impartiality, did we not own that it is by no means faultless, although its faults are of that nature which practice and experience will go far to correct. Where Mr. Savile chiefly fails is, in his attempts at describing the habits of Oriental females; albeit we own, indeed, that nothing can be more unromantic than the real life of Mahomedan women, whatever charms Oriental poetry may have contrived to throw over it: love in the East merely exists in song, and ceases with possession. The character, therefore, of Zoraya is quite artificial; and even the slight attempt made by the author, in chapter 5, vol. i., to gloss over the absurdity of one of her country and situation possessing feelings only to be met with in those living in civilised nations, does not make amends for the false colours in which the character of the heroine is painted. Had, indeed, Zoraya been a plant of European growth, we should have been loud in our praises of the gentleness of her disposition, the fervency, yet delicacy of her attachment, and the decision of her character; but looking on her in the light of a Persian woman, we must withhold our applause. Another fault in Mr. Savile's composition is, the too great rapidity with which he sometimes hastens over his subject, and changes the field of action.

The scene opens with a beautiful description of a Persian town, time sunrise, and the whole place in a bustle from the crowding of the bazaars, through which a young Eliaut, called Feridoon, is proceeding; he is overtaken by a riding party, consisting of Zoraya (the daughter of Mehtee Khan, the chief magistrate of Hamadan) and her attendants. The veil of the lady is blown aside, and exhibits to the gaze of the youth such unwonted beauty, that his heart is turned, to use an eastern term, into cabob (roast meat): the veil again falls, and the cavalcade proceeds; but the young man remains stationary with astonishment and admiration, when he is aroused from his reverie



by receiving a severe castigation from the attendants who bring up the rear, for violating the Mahomedan custom of turning away the face when women of rank are passing. This does not, however, cure his sudden fit of love; and having learned the name and station of Zoraya, he proceeds in a most dejected state to the encampment of his tribe, and enters his father's tent. This old man is a very mysterious personage; for though the reader finds him in the lowly station of a shepherd, he is given to understand that Ismael (such is his name) has been much greater than he seems. The old shepherd discovers the cause of his son's unhappiness; and with more zeal than prudence presses his suit on the Begler Beg, and gets well bastinadoed for his pains, notwithstanding all his hints that his blood is noble, &c. He overhears, however, before quitting the city, a plot formed by Karah Kaplan, or Allah Verdee Khan, a Koordish chief, and rejected lover of Zoraya, which is detailed by Moorad, the khan's foster-brother, to Hussein, a muleteer and accomplice; this plot is no less than to carry off Zoraya during her progress to the shah's camp at Sultaneah. He relates it to his son, who lies in wait for the Koord, and intercepts him while bearing off the beautiful Persian. They fight; and Moorad is vanquished, owing to the superiority of Feridoon's weapons, and is forced to fly, leaving Zoraya in the hands of her preserver. The two, of course, fall desperately in love with each other: Feridoon tells her of his real rank; and they are proceeding most happily to the Eliauts' encampment, when they are met by Mahomed Reza Meerza, the prince, governor of the province (another lover of Zoraya's), who gives Feridoon a most severe beating, takes the lady to the king's camp, and leaves the humble lover to his not very agreeable reflections;—but we will give the author's own words:

"Feridoon stood gazing upon the departing cavalcade in silence. He felt no pain, no outward hurt, from his blows; but in his throat there was a sensation of suffocation. His heart was full, as if about to burst; he saw his golden dreams vanish, he saw the object of his adoration disappear, he well knew for ever; as to hope that an opportunity would occur of beholding Zoraya again, even for a moment, was absurd, as charms such as hers, which had produced such a warm effect upon his breast, would inevitably do the same with the hearts of others, particularly with respect to Mahomed Reza, whose violent passions and strong susceptibility for beauty were well known; and, alas, Feridoon was too well aware of the power of such a man, who would never brook the slightest hindrance to his desires."

The author then proceeds with such a violent tirade against women, that he almost leads us to suspect he has been unfortunate in his own attachments: for instance:—

"He also well knew the effect of rank on a woman's heart, how much it would prevail against the effects of love. He knew that, in general, women would sacrifice their best affections for wealth and station, and forget, or at least stifle, the remembrance of a love once felt for an object inferior in worldly, though superior in other qualifications."

The plot now thickens; but it is not our practice to betray these secrets, and we only snatch at a few points. The gathering of the different Koordish tribes is beautifully described; and there is, too, a lovely fragile creature introduced, a neglected wife of Karah Kaplan, who in the agony caused by the certainty of her husband's going on an enterprise

which must prove his ruin, breaks a blood-vessel and dies. The death of Zaira is thus portrayed:—

"These words had no sooner been pronounced than a shriek was heard from within the tent, so piercing, so agonizing, that it startled the speakers. Allah Verdee well knew the voice that gave utterance to the sound; and conscious of the cause, rushed hastily through the canvass door. On entering within the walls a horrid sight met his eye: for supported by Khatoon and two kaneezes, reclined Zaira, from whose mouth the blood was flowing in torrents, daubing her clothes with its ghastly hue. The feelings of the enthusiastic woman, roused to the utmost pitch of excitement, had become too much for her; and on hearing the last determination of her husband, a vein had burst, and deluged her in blood. Allah Verdee beheld the state of his once beloved wife, and his heart was touched to its very core: lifting her in his arms, he called upon her by every term of endearment, to look up and bless him with a smile, swearing never to cease loving her. 'Live, live, dearest of my soul!' he cried; 'live, or I die myself!' Zaira raised her gaze languidly to her husband's face, and a faint smile played over her features,—she essayed to speak—but could not. Allah Verdee, however, felt a gentle pressure of her hand, as if she both heard and understood him; by degrees the pressure relaxed—she leaned more heavily on her husband's bosom, and her eyes which turned not away from the perusal of his features, became fixed in death."

Karah Kaplan, notwithstanding the ill omens that threaten him, sets out on his expedition, and the tragic end arrives. Kaplan, having seen all his body-guard slain before his face, takes unwillingly to flight. Feridoon pursues, and overtakes him on the brow of a precipice; they wrestle: the Persian youth is nearly overcome and cast from the rock, when a shot from his father's rifle strikes the Koordish chief and mortally wounds him. Karah Kaplan is borne to the camp, and conducted into the presence of Ismael. At the moment, however, that his wound is being examined, the old man perceives a talisman, in the shape of a locket, hanging from the dying man's throat, and recognises it as the property of a wife whom he had long before lamented as lost, she having been carried off with an infant son, some two and twenty years before, by a band of Koords. Ismael starts with astonishment on beholding it;—but we will use Mr. Savile's own words:

"Ismael's eye glanced upon it, and in a moment every feature of his countenance was convulsed, every muscle trembled with agitation. He seized the charm, and gazing upon it earnestly, exclaimed in a hollow voice, 'Man! as you hope to enjoy Paradise, tell me where you procured this talisman!' 'It was my mother's,' replied Allah Verdee, faintly. 'How came it in her possession?' ejaculated Ismael; 'I beseech you tell me.' 'I know not,' returned the dying man; 'it was found upon her at the time of her death, just after she was taken prisoner.' 'Taken prisoner!' cried the old Eliaut; 'when? how? where?' 'What is it to you,' answered Karah Kaplan; 'however, as you are an old man, and appear interested, you must know that my mother was a Persian, so was my father; the latter was attacked and slain by Koords in the province of Hamadan. My mother and I (then an infant) were borne away captives; she survived but a few hours; yon talisman was taken from her neck and placed on mine; I was carried to the tribe to which our captors belonged; the chief adopted

me; at his death I succeeded him—you have my history.' 'Her name?' cried Ismael in agony; 'your mother's name, what was it?' 'Aysha,' said Allah Verdee, as he sank back exhausted. The above had been uttered in broken sentences, but every word went to the heart of the old man; he fixed his eyes steadfastly on the features of the Koordish chieftain, and perceived, or imagined he perceived, a resemblance to one he had long mourned. Ere, however, he could utter a word, much less move a limb, Karah Kaplan raised himself by a sudden effort to a sitting position, his glance rolled around, but it was no longer that of consciousness, for in a wild and delirious voice he cried, 'Charge the dogs! kill all, spare them not—here, Moorad Massoorah, strike, as you are men. Curses light on the defiled swine! remember we are Koords! Victory! victory! they fly; by Mahomed, we are avenged!' As these words were uttered, dreadful convulsions seized upon the speaker; he sprang up almost to his feet, and then fell dead to the ground. Ismael remained spell-bound as the last breath left the body of the Koordish chief. The hideous truth was too apparent. Alas! the shot fired by the old man had sent to his account the long-lost, unforgotten, much-lamented child of Ismael's first wife, Aysha:—Allah Verdee has fallen by the hand of a father."

Thus concludes a tale of great interest, which is never allowed to flag. It is a story that will not only amuse for the time, but its attractions will endure long after its perusal. We recommend Mr. Savile to proceed; time and practice will go far to amend what is faulty in his writing, while they will mature what is good. What the author chiefly succeeds in, is his description of scenes, which are, we may say, actually painted by the hand of a master. His style is energetic and copious, his language fine and poetical. We will, before concluding, draw the attention of the reader to the following elegant and novel simile:

"As the band proceeded, the path became so narrow that but two horsemen could conveniently ride abreast, so that in consequence the force was lengthened out into a line of nearly half a fursuk long. The moonbeams playing upon the cuirasses and casques of the moving troopers, presented the appearance of the waters of a rippling stream."

This extract requires no comment; and we will now draw our remarks to an end, wishing the young author (for on referring to the Peerage, we find Mr. Savile is but just six and twenty) every possible success, and hoping he will soon appear again as a candidate for literary honours.

*On the Growth of Plants in closely glazed Cases.*  
By N. B. Ward, F.L.S. 8vo, pp. 95. London, Van Voorst.

The curious method of preserving plants in closely glazed vessels has been repeatedly mentioned and described in the *Literary Gazette*; and we have here a complete account of it. The author treats of the natural condition of plants, and on the causes which interfere with their cultivation in large towns; and he then shews us how we may grow and preserve them in full vigour for any length of time, by enclosing them in these glass receptacles, and also transport them all over the world. Some interesting botanical facts are stated in illustration of the principles laid down. The following remarks will interest every reader:—

"I shall (says Mr. Ward) conclude my little work with pointing out the application of the principle to animals and to man; an application far outweighing in importance all that has

hitherto been done. In my report to the meeting of the British Association at Liverpool, in 1838, I directed the attention of the members to this subject, at the same time expressing my conviction that a great number of animals would live and thrive under the same plan of treatment which had proved so successful with plants. A little reflection will convince us that this idea is not so visionary as it might appear at first sight. It has now been proved by numerous and long-continued experiments, that the air of London, if duly sifted, is perfectly fitted for the respiration of all plants, even of those with the most delicate leaves,—such as the *Trichomanes speciosum*, which may, in fact, be considered a test-plant as regards the purity of the air. Now this same condition of the atmosphere, so essential to the well-being and even the existence of such plants, we have it in our power to obtain in large towns; and by warming and moistening the air, we can, in fact, closely imitate any climate upon the face of the earth. It cannot be denied, that in a pure and properly regulated atmosphere we possess a remedial means of the highest order for many of the ills that flesh is heir to; and every medical man knows well, by painful experience, how numerous are the diseases which, setting at naught his skill and his remedies, would yield at once to the renovating influence of pure air. The difficulty to be overcome would be, the removal or neutralisation of the carbonic acid given out by animals; but this, in the present state of science, could easily be effected, either by ventilators or by the growth of plants in connexion with the air of the room, so that the animal and vegetable respirations might counterbalance each other. The volume of the air, with the quantity of vegetable matter required, as compared with the size and rank in creation of the animal, would be a problem well worthy of solution. Experiments of this kind upon any scale might be instituted in the Zoological Gardens, where the moping owl and ivy-mantled tower might be associated. In one of my own houses, about ten feet square, which was filled with small palms, and sufficiently close for the growth of the most delicate ferns, a robin lived for several months, at the end of which time he escaped, in consequence of the accidental opening of the door. Among the diseases incident to man which would be most materially benefited by pure air, I shall allude only to two, viz.—measles and consumption. This is not the place to enter into any long discussion on medical points; but believing firmly as I do, that a properly regulated atmosphere is of more importance in these diseases than all other remedial means, it would have been unpardonable in a work like the present to have passed them over without notice. In the crowded districts of large towns the direct mortality arising from measles is always great, but nothing, I believe, compared with the numbers that die, at various and distant intervals, in consequence of neglect during the disease. Nearly all this distress and mortality might be averted, were there proper rooms provided for the reception of the children of the poor when labouring under this complaint, or even of communicating it in favourable seasons."

Mr. Ward considers that the effect would be equally salutary in consumption.

*Songs of the Sword.* By Andrea Ferrara, jun. Pp. 52. Oxford, J. Vincent.

ABOUT this same time last year, Oxford, if we remember right, produced a notable specimen of theological learning. Nor has it this year

degenerated from its former fame; at least if the volume before us be a fair sample of its powers. Not that we would compare this "Sweet Swordsman of Isis" with the learned author of No. 90. Yet well might the divine exclaim in classic phrase, "Were I not Newman, I would be Andrea Ferrara (*Ferrara*, perhaps, he would spell it), jun."

Seriously speaking, we never beheld less likely composition than the present. There are about fifty pages of sonnets, songs, and ditties, any one of which would alone suffice for the stoutest subscriber to the most trashy of country circulating-libraries, or as a contribution to some hardly filled periodical. In his preface the writer owns to being young; and we hope, we believe, it may be the truth! for nothing but extreme inexperience can palliate the fact, that he literally and actually applies the term "Poems" to such a collection of insipid doggerel; though, perhaps, this may be a fresh adaptation of that well-worn *morceau* of classic wit,—*lucius, a non lucendo*;—poems, because destitute of a vestige of poetry. At any rate, we would inform him that, even in these hard times, we look for something more in a "poem" than a series of long and short lines alternately disposed; yea, though printed with capital letters at the beginning—nay, more, though the last word of each may possess some faint similarity in sound to that with which it is intended to correspond. Yet even this our poet often despises; for instance when he sings—

"And, oh! he found his heart was strong,  
And firm his step, when by him hung  
His sword."

And when the lines,

"Like a careful sentinel—his sword,"

and

"When flew, like a winged thing of life,"

are supposed to agree in number of syllables with the octometers,

"Is watching by its sleeping lord,"

and

"Into the scene of sternest strife."

Another ebullition of this English Körner's independent spirit (and were not the pretence so signal, we would not put the butterfly on the wheel) we observe. Quintilian and other learned grammarians have, it is true, made it a *sine quid non* in good poetry that the language should be generally intelligible to readers. But with what grace, what charming *abandon*, our swordsman violates the obsolete rule, when he proposes such sentences as—

"And thou [*i. e.* France] at length hast heard his voice," viz. the voice of Napoleon, after being some twenty years in his grave; or,

"The free will ne'er a slave possess."

In which line, if the words be individually simple, their united import is mysterious in the extreme.

Many other instances of such beautiful transgressions might we quote; but one more will suffice. Though the Mæonian bard was contented with that celebrated dialogue between Achilles and his steeds, yet sovereign arbiters of poetical merit universally agree in considering the idea by no means worthy of imitation. Still does not this verdict prevent our poet from inditing a lengthened confab between some hero unknown and his sword,—poetic, "his chosen bride;" in which, furthermore, sundry ejaculations, highly lady-like and romantic, are assigned to the *bride*, as—

"Hurrah! Hurrah!"

five times repeated; together with many other little turns of expression, in which even a "bride of steel" would, we presume, blush to indulge.

And, now, a word of advice to this *Great Unknown*. When he deals less in exclamations (see p. 19), and more in grammar,—less in tautology, and a little more in copiousness of diction;—when he will give himself the trouble to avoid ramblings from singular to plural in the same stanza,—

"Oh! shew me *thy* cheek of lightning bare,

And smile as *you* smiled by my father's side;"—

finally, when he can manage to eke out a certain number of feet without such a deluge of expletives and drawing monosyllables,—

"And sadly his absence his comrades *did* mourn,"—

then, perhaps, as in these days we are not at all particular, the sale of a first edition may damn this sword-grinder to temporary fame. But till these slight alterations in style, &c. &c. are effected, even this consolation, we fear, will be denied him.

We must also confess, that we are provoked by the unpatriotic tone of two or three of these effusions, so opposite to the enthusiastic love of Fatherland in the German poet, to visit the whole with greater severity than would seem warranted by the slight character of the publication.

*Modern French Life.* Edited by Mrs. Gore. 3 vols. R. Bentley.

ANOTHER of those works brought out under the disguise of a popular name—a common but reprehensible practice of the present day. But for the bantling before us Mrs. Gore has exceeded the mere granting a passport,—she has revised the sketches of the manners of the day in France, which, she says, are selected from the works of eminent writers by an able linguist; and farther, that they may be accepted as a candid and accurate representation of the habits and spirit of "modern French life." We have found this true to the letter in relation to the translator; the sketches are well rendered into our native idiom; and the style is light and easy. But the pictures of the habits and spirit of French society here drawn are those which we do not approve, and therefore cannot recommend for the perusal of our young countrywomen. Mrs. Gore's opinion of them, expressed in her preface, is, that "it needs no exercise of trite morality to point out how widely and offensively they differ from our own." But possibly she conceives that the "total contrast between our moral code and that of our foreign neighbours," is so glaring, that the reading of this work will establish in all minds the superiority of our morality, heighten the comparative blessings of modern English life to the imaginations of the inexperienced, and strengthen their judgment to approve of, and to conform to, the principles of an English education. Is it, however, worth while or desirable, for this supposed, and perhaps hoped-for result, to translate and place before our moral and modest Englishwomen stories in which the attempted seduction of wives and general intrigue are the prominent features? We trust that decrease of patronage and demand for this class of publication will be the answer to our question.

Appended to the sketches are two tales, contained in the third volume: the "Red House," by Dumas, teeming with blood and horrors, highly wrought and forcibly written; and "Defamation," by Michel Masson, very spirited, and full of interest.

*Hart's Fancy Work-book.* New edition, with Forty Illustrations. H. Colburn. THIS tiny volume will be found a valuable addition to the work-box or basket of the fancy

needle-woman : the fact of its being a third edition alone should say something in favour of its utility ; but its directions are clear and concise, its contents various, and hence the demand for its republication. It is, in fact, a *mutum in parvo*, and should be the *vade-necum* of the boudoir.

*Italy—Classical, Historical, and Picturesque.*

Part IV. Illustrated and described by W. Brockedon, Esq., F.R.S. Duncan and Malcolm.

THE Gate of Sorento, from the Ravine ; drawn by W. Brockedon from a sketch by Mrs. J. Davenport ; engraved by J. T. Willmore. 2. Terracina ; drawn by W. B. from a sketch by C. Stanfield ; engraved by T. Jeavons. 3. Naples from Vesuvius ; W. B. from a sketch by Capt. Sir George Back, R.N. ; engraved by J. Cousin.—are the charming embellishments of this new Part. The picturesque beauty of some of the views, and the sweetness of others ; the classic tone which more or less pervades them all ; and the rich association of ideas they call up,—continue to render this work one of the foremost which combined taste and talent in the arts have ever produced among the same class of publication. The selection of subjects evinces as much of feeling for what is exquisite in nature as of skill and observation in imparting variety to the whole. The brief but pertinent letter-press also does credit to Mr. Brockedon's judgment ; and when finished, we should say, that few such performances could be found in England to adorn and enrich her noblest libraries. Be it always remembered, that in our country it is individual enterprise which accomplishes all these great undertakings ; and they have neither government, public, or national purses, to originate and sustain them.

*Time and Timekeepers.* By Adam Thomson. Pp. 195. London, T. and W. Boone.

AN historical sketch of horology, with a few short and interesting relations respecting the nature and divisions of time, their origin and peculiarities, changes of style, &c. We cannot, however, dismiss this little work with a mere passing description, even were it much more extended than the foregoing sentence. It deserves praise for the care with which it has been compiled ; and recommendation to readers, because of the extensive and complete information it contains. Both of these it receives at our hands ; and may this oil of favourable opinion accelerate its circulation, which should extend beyond the merely reading public ; for the general principles laid down and illustrated will assist all classes, who only consult this portion of the work, to judge of good timekeepers. And without a good timekeeper, who can be certain that he will be punctual ? Punctuality, always a virtue, has become, in railroad-times, an indispensable necessity. Besides, "all eminent men have been attentive to time ; indifference to time invariably shews weakness or indolence of character, and is subversive of order and regularity."

*A Manual of the Steam-Engine.* By R. D. Hoblyn, A.M. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 293. London : Scott, Webster, and Geary.

THIS work is not like the comprehensive and able treatise of Scott Russell's, which not long ago came under our notice. But it is an aid, and a valuable one, to the full knowledge of steam-power and its various applications—a popular account of the application of chemical and mechanical science to its operations, and divested of all abstruse calculations and details of abstract research. The recapitulations at the end of each chapter are well adapted to

fix in the mind the information gained, and to mark the progress of the student : he can examine himself how far he understands, and can apply, the principles of the preceding pages, and thus prove the reality of his acquisitions.

*The English Reformation.* By F. C. Massingberd, M.A. Pp. 420. London, Burns.

A VERY interesting history of men and of times of the utmost importance in the annals of England. The author writes in a simple yet elegant style ; and has not been content with mere compilation, even from the superabundance of rich sources which are open to the inquiring mind. On the contrary, he has consulted various manuscripts and ancient repositories in the British Museum, at Oxford, Lincoln, and York, whence he has derived new and valuable information.

*Life and Labours of Dr. Adam Clarke.* 8vo, pp. 416. Longman and Co.

A NEW edition of this interesting life, very much improved in every respect. Much of a controversial nature has been omitted, and a considerable portion of new and interesting matter introduced ; so that the whole is in a much more readable and popular shape.

*A Treatise on the Grammar of the New Testament Dialect ; embracing Observations on the Literal Interpretation of numerous Passages.* By the Rev. T. S. Green, M.A. 8vo, pp. 332. London, S. Bagster and Sons.

IN this volume, the head-master of the grammar-school of Ashby-de-la-Zouch gives evidence of his high qualifications for that office. It is a treatise of great value, not only in a grammatical, but in a religious point of view ; and the scholarship, with proofs of which it abounds, is replete with illustrations of ancient poetical and classical, as well as of biblical, literature.

*The Education of Mothers of Families, &c.* By M. Aimé Martin. Translated by E. Lee. Pp. 384. Whittaker.

THE amount of excellent matter, observation, and advice contained in this volume ought to recommend it to the most careful attention of every parent and teacher. It obtained the prize of the French Academy, and is well translated by Mr. Lee.

*The Religious History of Man.* By D. Morison. Pp. 334. Smith, Elder, and Co.

THOUGH this is a second edition, the first was disposed of so much among private persons, that it may fairly be considered a new work. It is original, full of thought, and displays no small share of learning. Students in divinity will find it very acceptable ; but there is also much to instruct the general reader.

*Truth without Prejudice.* Pp. 155. London, Livingtons.

FIVE chapters on moral and religious topics, in which the purest principles are inculcated in graceful language.

#### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

SIR,—There is a paper in the *Westminster Review* for this month, No. 73, entitled, "Biblical Illustrations from the Antiquities of Egypt," to which it may be worth while to call the attention of the public through your widely circulated Journal, in order to expose the profane and blasphemous spirit in which it is written, and the extreme ignorance of the writer. It is his design throughout to mingle together the verities of the Christian religion and the mythic fables of heathen antiquity,—treating both as

equally true, and thus stealthily leading on his reader to the very threshold of the conclusion at which he wishes him to arrive, that both are equally false. One instance of this shall suffice.

"The astronomical sign Virgo is represented on the ancient Tentyrean planisphere as a virgin nursing a child,—as if in anticipation of Isaiah vii. 14 : 'Behold a virgin shall conceive,' &c." He proceeds to inform us that "the offspring of the union of Leo and Virgo was the Egyptian Messiah or Horus" (p. 381). The design of this passage is plain enough, Virgo is the same as the Virgin Mary ; and Horus, the son of Leo and Virgo, the Egyptian Messiah, is the same as Jesus, the son of Mary, the Christian Messiah. Horus is the son of two constellations—mere phantasms, than which it is impossible to conceive any thing more void of real existence. Now, as nothing can produce nothing, Horus, the son of nothing, must himself be nothing. But Jesus Christ, by the proposition, is the same as Horus ; ergo, Jesus Christ is also nothing. So that, grant but the premises of the ingenious author of this "calm and philosophic inquiry," as he terms it, and we have a mathematical demonstration which rids the world of Christianity at once.

The friends of religion, however, need be under no very serious alarm as to the issue of this new attack. It is needless to occupy your columns with more than a single instance of the grievous ignorance of his subject which the writer of this article betrays in almost every sentence. He informs us that "the dates of the zodiacs of Esne and Dendera mount, in our opinion, to periods of the very highest antiquity" (p. 381) ; and resuming the subject, in a subsequent passage he becomes still more precise. The zodiac of Esne he concludes to have been sculptured about 200 years after the deluge ; that is, according to the common Bible-chronology, about 2150 years before the birth of Christ. He considers the date of the zodiac of Dendera to be 2782 B.C. ; that is, about 400 years before the deluge, according to the same chronology (p. 383). Now, sir, for the facts. The zodiac of Esne has been accurately copied by Sir G. Wilkinson, Mr. Burton, Mr. Bonomi, and others. It also occupied, for many days, the French and Tuscan commission that visited Egypt in 1828 ; and so laboriously did they study accuracy, that they took casts of the sculptures. The blocks on which the zodiac of Dendera is engraved were removed from thence about twenty years ago, and it is now deposited in the Jardin des Plantes, at Paris. So that there is every opportunity for obtaining a perfect acquaintance with the inscriptions on both these monuments. On the former of them the name of the Roman emperor Antoninus is frequently repeated ; on the latter, as frequently that of the emperor Augustus. Granting, therefore, to the critic every possible advantage, by assuming that the zodiac of Esne belongs to the age of the first of the Antonines, it dates 140 years after Christ, instead of 2150 years before, and he has made a trifling mistake of at least 2290 years in the date of that monument. Our Saviour was born in the reign of Cæsar Augustus : in his date of the zodiac of Dendera, therefore, there is an error of 2782 years, or thereabouts. All this has been well known for twenty years. There is no approved work on Egyptian antiquities in which it is not explained ; and certainly no student of them to whom it is not familiar.

I can only express, in conclusion, my astonishment and regret that the conductors of so respectable a periodical as the *Westminster*



Review should have been imposed upon to this extent. X.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WE have been favoured with the following extract from a letter recently received from a young gentleman who accompanied the Expedition to Australind, in Western Australia, with the first body of settlers despatched by the Western Australian Company in 1840. It is written from the Vasse Inlet, where, as he states, he had been to acquaint himself with that district; he had previously been to Perth for a similar purpose, and returned with the same preference for Leschenault.

"Vasse Inlet, 9th Dec. 1841.

"You will see, by the upper line of this short epistle, that I am thirty miles south of our settlement. I gave myself a holiday this week, and rode my pony down here to see this district, with which I am much pleased; but I most certainly prefer Leschenault to it. The country is very flat, and the vegetation down to the beach; the wheat looks very well. I rode over the farm of Mrs. Layman yesterday with Mr. Chapman, with whom I am at present; Mrs. Layman has about twenty-five acres of wheat in this year. Travelling here is very different to what it is in England: we do not look for inns, but make ourselves at home wherever we go, and are sure of a welcome. I stayed two days with the Bussels; and dine to-day with Captain and Mrs. Molloy. He is in the Rifles, on half-pay, and holds the office of government-resident for the Vasse. You must excuse the shortness of this letter; for I shall write you another soon, in answer to your own; but an American whaler being homeward-bound full (3000 barrels of oil), and touching at St. Helena, I thought it as well to send a few lines. I shall return to Leschenault on Friday or Saturday. All's well in our settlement. We expect to hear this week of the arrival of the Don or Lucretia at Swan River. The water is very smooth in Géographie Bay, but no shelter; the anchorage good. Three whalers are in the Bay; and we expect twenty or thirty in a day or two. They will take all the potatoes they can obtain; and the lowest price 204 per ton."

#### ARTS AND SCIENCES.

##### WOOLWICH ARTILLERY-PRACTICE.

ON Tuesday we were among the spectators of the practice of artillery in the marshes attached to our great Arsenal at this place, where some experiments, of much importance to the science of war, were under trial before Lord Bloomfield, Sir G. Cockburn, and several of the Lords of the Admiralty. The result afforded grounds for reflection which we trust we are not transgressing military bounds in stating in a public manner. The chief object (and to us an entirely new one) was to ascertain if the paddle-boxes of war-steamer could be protected from cannon-shot, by placing over them a receptacle for their fuel, through which the ball must pass before it could injure the machinery. A wooden case, filled with coals, about ten or twelve feet in thickness, was placed behind the bulwark, or target, at which were fired 24 and 68-lb. shot; the latter belonging to those monstrous guns which are being now introduced into our larger steam-vessels. The distance was 1250 yards: several shots struck the mark; and three, we think, penetrated right through the coals, lodging and forming bulges in the iron casing on the farther side. This would seem to prove the sufficient protection of the fuel so disposed

as to cover the engines and wheels. But it occurs to us, that as the quantity of fuel diminishes by consumption, so must the amount of safety; and this would suggest the idea, whether any material of superior resistance to coals might not be used in this way. Some rocket-experiments were also tried, laying the rockets in long troughs to fire them. The method did not appear to afford to this class of projectiles any more certain direction than what it has hitherto approached; and therefore, with all its destructive power, it must still remain irregular and not to be entirely depended upon. The last experiments appointed were of Col. Miller's grooved percussion-shells, whereby the bombs are propelled with a pivot-point always in front, and whenever this strikes the aim, it ignites and explodes the shell with terrific efficacy.

But the mention of this brings us to the observation at which we hinted on setting out. From ten o'clock in the forenoon till past four, six long hours, did we, as well as the commander and officers of Engineers and the troops under their command, the Lords of the Admiralty, and other official and non-official gentlemen present, wait patiently on the only ground where Artillery-practice can be carried on; and with considerable difficulty they were enabled to fire some score of shots. The continual passage of vessels up and down the river within the range of the guns, and consequently, the risk of accident if they missed the embankment where the target is placed, prevented a more frequent trial of these momentous experiments. Now it seemed to us hardly credible, that such an inconvenience could have been suffered to exist for many years without a remedy,—without finding some ground where national inquiries of such vast importance could be brought to the test. Surely we are an odd people, to leave to chance or accident the means of determining facts which are calculated to make us the conquerors or the vanquished in the first war in which we may happen to be engaged! But the movement of a dozen of fishing-yawls, as we now act, is enough to postpone the question, whether we shall be well or ill armed, before or behind other countries in the art of war. One would be led to fancy, that there was not three miles of ground to be discovered in England free from impediments for this engineering-practice. And the consequence was obvious—the mark was not hit once in half a dozen times; whereas we expected almost every shot to *riddle* it and the coals behind, which well-exercised gunnery, we are convinced, would have done.

As it was, the experiments were few and imperfect; and the commander and the Admiralty lords left the marshes long before we did, without being able to ascertain, after a day's loss of time, whether they had succeeded or failed. Might a humble civilian venture to advise so high authorities as Admiralty or Ordnance Boards, we would most respectfully suggest, that some site should be obtained where the Artillery of Great Britain may continually try and improve its skill, without being interrupted every five minutes by any paltry craft crossing the line of its operations, and hindering its proceedings from day to day, and week to week, and month to month, till, perhaps, the evil hour may come, when all its experience and talent is wanted for the honour and preservation of England.

##### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

WE are at length enabled to give complete Mr. Murchison's paper, the reading of which occu-

pled the greater part of the evening of the 6th, and the whole of the evening of the 20th of April. It described the flat regions of Russia traversed by the authors during the summer of 1841, the second devoted by them to the examination of that empire: and the account of Ural, or mountainous districts, is reserved for subsequent meetings. The formations which occupy this vast territory belong to the silurian, devonian, and carboniferous systems—to a great series of deposits equivalent, in geological position, with the magnesian limestone of England, and the zechstein of Germany, and to certain portions of the oolitic, cretaceous, and tertiary systems; the whole being overlaid by far-spreading masses of northern drift, and other detritus. It is impossible, in a notice suited to our columns, to grapple with the details of a paper describing, for the first time, the true order of position of strata extending over 12° of latitude and 30° of longitude; but we will endeavour to give an analysis of the conclusions arrived at by the authors.

The centre of Russia, between the parallels of 52° and 54° north latitude, is occupied by a dome of devonian rocks, which divides the empire into a northern and southern basin, each characterised by marked geological features, but most especially by all the good or workable coal being confined to the southern basin. Over the whole area of European Russia, however, whether it be traversed from Archangel to the Black sea, from its western confines to the foot of the Ural mountains, or from St. Petersburg to the sea of Azof, the strata present a conformable succession and nearly horizontal position, except in the coal regions north of the sea of Azof, where the carboniferous beds are dislocated and highly inclined, and overlaid unconformably by newer deposits.

The silurian rocks do not occur within the flat, central, and southern regions of Russia; but they exist extensively in the Ural mountains, and will be fully described in future memoirs. The devonian rocks forming the central dome before alluded to, differ lithologically from the equivalent strata in other parts of Russia; but they contain the distinguishing ichthyolites of the system, and the same testacea which occur in the devonian rocks of the south-west of England, the Boulonnais, and the Eifel. They are, moreover, surmounted along their northern frontier by the lowest strata of the mountain limestone. The authors' knowledge of the carboniferous system of Russia was greatly extended during their last expedition. In the northern region or basin, and ranging from near Moscow to Archangel, it exhibits great uniformity of character, consisting principally of a white limestone, which often resembles the *calcaire grossier* of Paris; and it contains only one thin bed of very impure coal; but, in consequence of their extended researches, the authors shew that the system may be separated into three divisions: the lowest being characterised by the great *Prooluctus hemisphericus*, the middle one by the *Spirifer mosquensis*, and many well-known carboniferous shells, and the upper division by the great abundance of a foraminifera, to which Fischer de Waldheim has applied the name of *fusulina*. The establishment of this triple subdivision has enabled the authors to correct some important errors in previous classifications of Russian deposits. But the most interesting feature in the system, south of the central dome, occurs between the Don and the Dnieper, and consists of a vast interlacement of limestones, containing the same fossils as near to Moscow, with sandstones, shales, and

numerous seams of bituminous as well as anthracitic coal. This series, the authors state, is distinguished from the coal measures of Western Europe by the absence of all beds containing fluviatile or lacustrine remains. Along the western flank of the Ural mountains, the carboniferous limestone is overlaid by grits, conglomerates, shales, and flaggy limestones, containing new species of aoniatites, and plants common to the whole carboniferous series. These beds are considered by the authors to be the equivalents of the British coal-fields, and the lower, newer red sandstone, or the *rothe-todd-liegende* of Germany; and reasons are given for separating the latter, with its English representative, from the newer red sandstone series, and making it the upper, but an integral part of the coal measures.

The next system of deposits, in ascending order, claimed the particular attention of the authors on account of the difference of opinion which had been expressed respecting its true geological position, and the most competent observers having begged them to make it an object of careful research. The series consists of insculcating deposits of limestones, marls, and gypsum, with grits, sandstones, and conglomerates, containing copper of saliferous marls, sandstones, and rock-salt, and of bituminous grits; and it is characterised by a peculiar fauna; but it contains also the typical shells of the magnesian limestone of England, and of the *zechstein* of Germany, as well as the distinct saurians of these formations. Nevertheless, if it had not been for the vast development of this series in Russia, for its possessing an independent flora and fauna, and for the want of a term to express a complex series of deposits occupying a geological situation intermediate between the carboniferous and triassic systems, the authors would have hesitated to have erected these important rocks into a system. They feel, however, that they are fully justified in doing so; and they propose to designate the system by the appellation, Permian, on account of its extensive distribution in the government of Perm, and because none of the names applied to subordinate members of the system in other parts of Europe express the aggregate characters of the Russian deposits. The system has been long mineralogically known along the western base of the Ural mountains, where it abounds in copper ores, which are not distributed in veins, but are disseminated through the sandstones and grits, especially in those parts in which vegetables occur, the original plant being often replaced or charged by carbonates and other ores of copper. In the north of Russia the system is feebly exhibited, consisting of only a bed of inconsiderable thickness. Overlying these strata occurs a deposit of green and red marl, and sands destitute apparently of organic remains, but occupying a vast region. Whether these marls are the representatives of the triassic system, or belong to the Permian, the authors decline to offer any opinion, not being provided with that evidence which they consider sufficient. The regular sequence in the ascending order between the Permian, or the beds last noticed, and the cretaceous series, is partially represented in Russia; many of the deposits constituting marked features in the English secondary formations being totally wanting, and others but imperfectly represented. The authors, however, shew that the beds between the red and green marls, and the cretaceous series, are separable into two divisions, the lowest consisting of dark shales and ferruginous sands, being the equivalent of the middle and

inferior oolitic deposits of England; and the upper composed of earthy and sandy limestones, being on a parallel with the coral rag and Portland oolite; and the correctness of the classification is proved by lists of fossils, including well-known British species. This attestation of a great European series of rocks was due, the authors conceive, to changes of level between sea and land, whereby large areas were for a time raised above the ocean, and again depressed beneath it; and they adduce, in support of this opinion, instances of erosion or denudation in the red and green marls, before the deposition of the bottom-bed of the oolitic series. Though these strata occupy comparatively small areas, especially near Moscow, and on the Volga and Okka, they are extensively distributed in the government of Simbirsk and Saratof, also on the south-west flanks of the Ural, and in the steppes of the Kirghiss; but the superior division is only known on the Upper Donetz.

The cretaceous system of Russia is in many respects identical with that of western Europe, and it contains several of the long-known characteristic fossils; it occasionally, however, presents discrepancies in composition, passing in the highest part into arenaceous strata; so that the fine white chalk is enveloped in masses of marlstone, sands, and ferruginous grit, analogous to the upper and lower green sand series of England.

The tertiary strata of Russia are shewn by the authors to agree most strikingly with those of England; the lowest bed being lithologically undistinguishable from the Bognor rock, and containing fossils, stated, on the authority of Mr. J. Sowerby, to be identical with Bognor species; and other beds are exact counterparts of the greyweathers of England, or the paving stones of Paris. The next strata, in ascending order, are shewn to be of the age of the Vienna basin or miocene epoch; and the shelly limestones of the steppes are stated to exhibit the finest examples of a transition from the pleiocene to the post-pleiocene series, the organic remains in the uppermost beds being undistinguishable from the shells of the Caspian. Of this most recent deposit, Russia, as the authors observe, possesses peculiarly two distinct accumulations; one characterised by an arctic fauna, now living in the north seas; and the other by a fauna of temperate zones, or that of the Caspian.

In reviewing the phenomena presented by the vast territory which passed under their survey, the authors dwell on the uninterrupted succession of conformable marine deposits throughout nearly the whole of the flat regions of European Russia, or the non-intercalation of terrestrial, fresh-water, and estuary formations, connecting the absence of such strata with the total want of intrusive or other igneous rocks, as well as all evidence of violent disturbance and unconformability, except in the coal-field north of the sea of Azof. The cause of these peculiarities, or the absence of plutonic rocks, is considered by the authors to have also influenced the lithological structure of the formation, some of the oldest of the silurian strata having quite as recent an aspect as the cretaceous or tertiary beds. Another point of great zoological as well as geological interest, connected with the singular structure of Russia, is insisted upon in the memoir. Each formation is clearly marked by its distinct suite of organic remains, even in those cases where there is no unconformability or abrupt transitions between one series of rocks and the next in succession; and therefore

Mr. Murchison observes, that this distinction, especially in the silurian, devonian, carboniferous, and permian systems, cannot be due to violent operations which destroyed one race of animals to make way for another; and, consequently, that the theory founded on such a supposition, and deduced from the investigation of countries which present numerous instances of violent commotions and unconformability, must be greatly modified before it can be admitted.

In conclusion, the authors recapitulate the evidences of the marine origin of all the regular formations, to the newest tertiaries inclusive, alluding, nevertheless, to the proofs of the interruption in the sequence of the secondary strata, and the probable influence which the elevation of the central dome of devonian rocks had in the marked difference of the characters of the formations north and south of the dividing region; and they shew that the submarine condition of the surface did not terminate with the post-pleiocene epoch, but extended throughout the period when the superficial detritus was accumulated, and in part to within the historic era. Lastly, they allude to the effects produced by the operations of man on the waters of the lakes and rivers, proving uncontestedly that their diminished volume is due to the felling of the forests and the cultivation of the soil.

#### ROYAL INSTITUTION.

May 6. — Mr. Griffiths, "On phosphorus, and its evolution as a source of fire,"—gave a summary of the history of the discovery and progressive appreciation of the value of phosphorus, and then passed on to the consideration of this substance as existing in bone, and explained the mode of its extraction. To the presence of phosphorus in combination with lime, as phosphate of lime, is due the hardness of bone; but its toughness and strength are derived from gelatine and albumen. By the immersion of bone in hydrochloric acid the phosphate of lime may be dissolved out, and the form of an ulna, for instance, remain as a tough elastic substance. This is gelatine and albumen, and their presence even in fossil bones can be evidenced: a specimen, extracted by Mr. Griffiths from antediluvian bones of the Kirkdale cave, was exhibited. The destruction of bone in a close vessel by heat produces a black substance, called bone-black. Mr. Griffiths explained the manner in which the great commercial demand for phosphorus was supplied, and the various uses, for instantaneous lights, matches, &c., to which it is applied. Formerly it sold for 100s. per oz.; it can now be obtained for 8s. 6d. per lb. The fall in the price of lucifers, congreves, &c., is equally astonishing. We need not expatiate on their cheapness, nor dwell on their value as an ingenious, ready, and effectual source of fire.

#### CIVIL ENGINEERS.

May 10.—The president in the chair. A paper was read descriptive of "Messrs. Marshall's new flax-mill at Leeds," by Mr. Combe. This mill consists of one room 132 yards long by 72 yards wide, covering nearly two acres of ground. The average height is 21 feet. The roof is formed of brick, groined arches of 36 feet span supported by cast iron pillars; an impermeable coating of coal-tar and lime is laid over the arches, upon that is a layer of soil 8 inches thick sown with grass; this immense room is lighted and ventilated by a series of skylights 13½ feet diameter, one at the centre of each groin. The advantages of this description of building were



stated to be:—the convenience of supervision, the easy access to the machines, the power of sustaining a uniformity of temperature and moisture, the absence of currents of air, and several points of minor importance, all of which were fully confirmed by several members in the discussion that ensued. The adoption of similar constructions for machine manufactories, and even for agricultural buildings, was strongly urged, on the ground of the advantages arising from concentrating all the processes under the supervision of one person, and the economy in moving heavy masses. Arched roofs were stated not to be more expensive than wood and slate coverings, and to be quite as sound, when well executed; and of their greater durability there could not exist a doubt.

The "description of the explosion of a steam-boiler, at the Penydarran works, South Wales," by Mr. Stephens, was an interesting account of a sad accident. The boiler was 41 feet long, 7 feet diameter, with a centre-tube flue of 4 feet 2 inches diameter; the thickness of the plates throughout was half an inch, the ends were flat, with rings of angle-iron; the pressure of the steam to which the safety-valves were weighted was 50 lbs. per square inch. From appearances after the explosion, the tube, which was collapsed in a very remarkable manner in its entire length, had been softened by the heat, having been left dry along the upper side, and the sudden injection of water from the force-pumps had caused a development of a large body of steam, which had crushed the tube from one side. No opinions were given in the paper on the theory of the causes of explosions, the author having restricted himself to the absolute detail of facts, and recommending the adoption of the steam-whistle to warn the engineers of the lowness of the water in the boiler, which is the general cause of accidents.

Mr. Lindsay Carnegie presented to the Institution, and explained the construction and action of, his patent stone-piercing machine, to be used instead of the ordinary jumper-tool, for boring trenail holes in railway blocks, stones for marine constructions, billiard-table slates, &c. The machine appeared completely compact and simple; its merits and the economy derived from its use were borne testimony to by Mr. Vignoles, Mr. Smith of Deanston, and Mr. Braithwaite.

The new papers announced to be read at the next meeting were:—"Description of a steam dredging-boat on the Caledonian Canal," by W. Elliot. "Description of the Maplin Sand Light-house," by J. B. Redman.

#### ESKIMAUX RACE.

At the meetings of the members of the Mechanical Institution on the 2d and 29th of April, Mr. Richard King gave a history of the Eskimaux race. This interesting branch of the great human family is divided into several small communities, spread over the whole of Northern America as yet discovered; southwards to Prince William's Sound on the western coast, including the island of St. Lawrence, and to Labrador on the eastern coast, as well as Greenland and the opposite coast of Baffin's Bay. Although for a very considerable period Labrador has been the most southern limit of the Eskimaux in the direction of the Atlantic, Mr. King is of opinion—an opinion founded upon the highest authorities—that in early times their migration extended as far south as the St. Lawrence, including the occupation, as a summer residence, of the island of Newfoundland, and even inland as far as the Falls of Niagara,—tumuli having been found there,

attributed by the red man, who does not adopt that mode of sepulture, to an extinct race that inhabited the country before him; and these tumuli enclose remains which have been found to possess all the physical peculiarities of the Eskimaux race. The Eskimaux speak radically the same language; and although there are dialectical differences, those differences are so slight, that a native, whether he be taken from the Eskimaux of the Pacific or from those of the Atlantic, is able to make himself understood to all the various and widely spread communities. Mr. King having stated very briefly the position the Eskimaux hold in the natural history of man, proceeded to speak of their physical and intellectual character. Although their general features do not convey the usual idea of beauty, according to the European standard, still they have found more or less favour in the eyes of every traveller who has visited them. They are of a robust make; and, although the muscles are but ill-defined, are, in point of strength, quite equal to Europeans. As regards stature, the average height of the men is 5 ft. 6 in., that of the women, 5 ft. 1 in.; the shortest being those of Greenland, the scale gradually increasing as we proceed from east to west. Their intellectual character is by no means insignificant, individuals having been found among all the different communities with capacities equal to any thing they choose to take an interest in learning. In order to make themselves understood by persons unacquainted with their language, they convey their meaning by most intelligible and admirable pantomime; and their geographical delineations have always proved most accurate. And if we agree, says Mr. King, with that eminent historian Robertson, that tact in commerce, and correct ideas of property, are evidences of a considerable progress towards civilisation, we must give them credit for greater intelligence than falls to the lot of most of the uncivilised races. The practice of ornamenting the face by tattooing is exclusively confined to the women. The art is most abundantly practised by the women of Melville Peninsula, Boothia, and the Great Fish River; and the pattern is the same, although the lines vary in number. The pattern consists of from three to six lines horizontally across each cheek, from three to eighteen vertically across the chin, and from three to eight from the forehead to the centre of the nose, between the eyebrows; a double line round the neck and breast, above the shoulder, another below the shoulder, and a third above the elbow. Between the Mackenzie and Coppermine rivers, and at St. Lawrence's Island, the women were tattooed across the cheeks only; while westward of the Mackenzie it was the fashion to have five or six blue lines drawn perpendicularly from the under-lip to the chin, which at Norton and Kotzebue's Sounds were reduced to three. At Labrador and Southampton Island, instead of lines small dots are substituted. Although the men do not practise tattooing, many of the communities pierce the lower part of the face, for the purpose of introducing into the openings various ornaments. From Norton Sound to the Mackenzie it was the fashion to pierce the corners of the mouth, in which are placed labrets of blue beads, let into circular pieces of ivory, and in form exactly resembling shirt-studs, but of the size of a shilling, though sometimes they are found even as large as a half-crown piece. The natives of Prince William's Sound, instead of the cheeks pierce the lower lip, and adopt two fashions;—the one consists in having the under lip cut quite through in the direction of the mouth, a little

below the thick part; the other in having the lower lip perforated into separate holes. Into the former, a flat, narrow ornament of shell or bone, cut into narrow pieces like small teeth, is inserted; and into the latter, small shelly studs, to which are attached at the lower end small strings of beads, which hang down to the point of the chin. The men of the Mackenzie, in addition to the cheek-incisions, pierce the septum of the nose, through which they thrust the quill-feathers of birds, or pieces of bone or tubulose shells strung on fine pieces of whalebone.

The Eskimaux are polygamists; but they rarely have more than two wives, and only one if she is fruitful; and the women have the same privilege as to the number of husbands. Though a phlegmatic people, the Eskimaux may be said to treat their wives with fondness; and young couples frequently rub noses, their favourite mark of affection, with an air of tenderness. A man can repudiate his wife, if he thinks proper; and the ceremony is very simple. The Arctic lord bestows a cross look upon his lady, and then leaves his home. The lady at once understands him, packs up her traps, and domiciles herself with her former protectors. An Eskimaux woman has seldom more than four children, and but very rarely twins; and the period between the births is from two to three years. The affection of both parents for their children is very great; and their education is conducted with much care, and without correction.

The various forms of habitations, both permanent and temporary, as well as the different kinds of boats—the daily occupations of the men and women, their amusements, religion, and superstitions,—were all alluded to and rendered familiar, where the subject admitted, by drawings and models. It is out of our power, however, for want of space, to enter into detail upon these subjects.

#### PARIS LETTER.

Paris, May 9, 1842.

*Academy of Sciences*: sitting of May 3.—M. Andral concluded the reading of a memoir, commenced last sitting, on the results of experiments on the composition of the blood of some domestic animals in a state both of sickness and of health.

M. de Quatrefages read a memoir on a new genus of the family actinia, to which he gives the name of *Edwardsia*, in honour of Milne Edwards; and described three species. He then examined their zoological affinities, and shewed that this genus is a link between the actinia and the alcyonia.

M. de Noirfontaine wrote that he had recently, on the 21st April, witnessed rain when the sky was perfectly clear. He felt on his face and hands several times the impression of drops of water, very fine, but which appeared to be driven along with force, when there was not the least trace of cloud or vapour in the sky. Several labourers to whom he communicated the fact told him that it had been raining similarly for some hours. The drops were neither large enough nor sufficiently abundant to mark the ground. The wind was blowing strongly from the N.E. The temperature, previously very low, began to rise.

M. Soubeiran communicated a summary of his researches on the combination of sugar from the cane with bases. They confirm those of M. Peligot on the constitution of sugar; but they remove the doubts left unexplained by that chemist, and rest upon new and more certain data. M. Soubeiran then described a new method of preparing calomel in steam.

M. V. A. Jacquelin addressed two memoirs: one on the purification of sulphuric acid, and the other on the correction of the equivalent of zinc.

The Academy received, besides, memoirs from M. Gaultier de Claubry, on an analysis applicable to the salts of baryta, potash, and soda, with organic acids:—from M. Nouzardé de Fayet, on the constitution of bodies:—from the Minister of Commerce, different documents relative to the plague, &c.

M. Arago submitted to the inspection of the Academy a chronometer without escapement, invented by M. Jacot; some sabres and daggers, in the handles of which were two pistols; a double saw, invented by M. E. Robert; designs printed with ink extracted from the *Agaricus atramentarius*, by Mr. J. R. Cox (of Philadelphia); also a chart, forwarded by M. Humboldt in the name of the author, M. Lehman (of Potsdam), on which was indicated the zone of the globe upon which the eclipse of the sun on the 8th of July next will be visible.

### LITERARY AND LEARNED.

#### UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, May 5.—The following degrees were conferred:—

*Masters of Arts*.—Rev. J. H. Gosset, Exeter College; H. C. Adams, E. K. Burney, demys of Magd. College; Rev. J. Innes, Trinity College; R. Mynors, University College; Rev. R. O. Walker, St. John's College; Rev. E. Curtis, Magdalene Hall; J. E. Grubb, Pembroke College.

*Bachelors of Arts*.—H. B. Barry, scholar of Queen's College; E. Pedder, Brasenose College; G. Lewthwaite, University College; P. Fanshawe, scholar of Balliol College; S. W. Wayne, M. Bernard, scholars of Trinity College; H. D. Heatley, E. N. Conant, St. John's College; H. Binney, R. W. Bush, W. Andrew, scholars of Worcester College; J. Collingwood, scholar of Pembroke College.

#### THE LITERARY FUND.

THE anniversary on Wednesday, honoured by the presidency of Prince Albert, went off, as anticipated in our *Gazette* of the 16th ult., with great éclat. H. R. H. was surrounded by a distinguished circle of high rank, and the men of letters of the day rallied in commendable numbers about their illustrious chairman—historians, poets, novelists, and dramatists. About 350 guests sat down to dinner; and the gallery was crowded by elegant females. The customary loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk with applause. The Duke of Cleveland gave, "The Prince of Wales and the Royal Family;" the Marquis of Northampton, "The Archbishop of Dublin and the Church;" and Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce, "The Army and Navy," which were acknowledged by Prince Albert, the Archbishop, Lord Colville, and Colonel Gurwood. Prince Albert then, in a brief but well-turned address, proposed the toast of the day, "Prosperity to the Literary Fund," which was drunk with enthusiastic applause, and replied to by the Marquis of Lansdowne, the president of the Fund, who concluded by giving the health of H. R. H. Prince Albert. In return, the prince expressed his warmest thanks for the compliment, and declared that he would be always happy to promote the interests of those excellent institutions, which so prominently distinguished the country. Throughout the evening, the courteous and affable deportment of the Prince, in the performance of his new task, won all hearts. Indeed, his presiding on this occasion deeply merits all the popularity which attaches to the patronage of literature and the alleviation of adversity. The report of subscriptions was now read by the secretary; and before the close of the evening reached to somewhere about 1100*l*.

The healths of Lord Lansdowne, and the Prussian and Russian ambassadors, were then proposed by Prince Albert, Lord Lansdowne, and Lord Montagu, and acknowledged by the respective parties. Mr. T. Campbell gave, "Mr. Hallam and the historians." Lord Mahon gave, "Mr. T. Moore and the poets." Lord Colborne gave, "Mr. James and the novelists." Mr. Murchison gave, "The Marquis of Northampton and the scientific literature of the country." Mr. G. Knight gave, "Mr. Sergeant Talfourd and the dramatists." Sir R. Inglis gave, "Washington Irving and the literature of the United States." Lord Ashley gave, "The Vice-Presidents of the Society;" and Prince Albert gave, "The Ladies!" Upon these toasts Mr. Campbell spoke strangely, Mr. Hallam briefly, Mr. Moore ornatly, Mr. James happily, Mr. Talfourd eloquently, and Washington Irving appropriately; and by this time it was near the midnight chimes. "Here's a health to all good lasses" was sung merrily, and the national anthem chanted; and H. R. H. departed, and the company separated, after enjoying a very harmonious and delightful entertainment, graced by rank, genius, and talent, enlivened by music, adorned by oratory, and, above all, sweetened by Charity.

Of which *à propos*. We have to express a hope that the great liberality displayed on this occasion will be dispensed with like liberality to the individuals who have claims upon the good feelings of the Institution; and not be cramped either by niggardly economy, by mistaken opinions as to the objects of the Society, or by a desire to accumulate, whilst the poor and suffering seek succour in vain, and starve and die. From the statement laid before the meeting, the amount of relief administered seems to have been sadly inadequate to the condition of the Fund. The last annual income was mentioned to be 2114*l*. 6*s*.; and all the aid administered to the distressed authors, authoresses, widows, and orphans, during that year, to only 785*l*. or very little more than one-third of the revenue. This was never the intention of the founders and early promoters of the charity; and to learn that no more than thirty-eight persons were succoured by so rich and well-supported an association is rather a melancholy reflection. Is this the average of twelve months of the whole literary misery of Great Britain, and foreign parts too (for the Fund generously embraces the whole), and of the alleviation that can be afforded? We feel assured it is not; and the assurance is the more displeasing, when on the very same day we observe two other confined and local charities meeting and doing infinitely more than this great general cause. At Stationers' Hall the Duke of Wellington presided over the anniversary for the Infant Orphan Asylum, and got a subscription of above 1200*l*. to feed and clothe hundreds of destitute children; whilst at the London Tavern H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge took the chair for the Royal Free Hospital in Greville Street, for which he obtained 1898*l*. 6*s*., and which well deserved this sympathy—for in one year it had saved from cold, hunger, and perishing, no fewer than fourteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-one of our fellow-creatures.

The Literary Fund is one of the noblest and most affecting charities of England, if justly, properly, and mercifully administered. But we regret to say, that a notion has lately become prevalent that high literary attainments should be essential to the candidates for help; and that the lower order of writers, the poor, ambitious of fame and only rich in their excess of wretchedness, do not come within the scope

of its provisions. This is a great mistake. It is as if a naval charity were confined to admirals and other commissioned officers, or a military one to generals and the staff, shutting out the petty and non-commissioned, the sailors and the soldiers of the services. An indifferent writer may be a very good man, and a most deserving object for the utmost benevolence of such an institution as this; for, indeed, it is folly to look for misfortune almost exclusively to the upper classes of authors. And then the miserable dole that has been afforded—785*l*. or about 20*l*. a head, among thirty-eight of the wretched, sick, aged, and dying applicants—some denied because they come yearly; others refused because they have produced no first-rate work; and so on through a category of objections totally opposed to the older views and principles of the Fund, instead of the widely open hand, and the disposition to err, if it be error at all, on the side of humanity. The period for offering these remarks is that when so large a sum has been contributed to a charity already rich in property; and they are thrown into no unfriendly tone towards it, by one who has contributed largely to its prosperity, and who trusts to see it increase in beneficence as it increases in affluence, avoiding the sin of parsimony and hoarding, and warmly espousing the virtue of diffusing and blessing. Within its precincts the cry of want should not be heard, nor the solicitations of distress be uttered in vain; but, as the illustrious Prince and the public have evinced this splendid generosity in its support, it is, we repeat, earnestly to be hoped, that its acts will keep pace with its professions and duties, that the old spirit will be revived, or a new and better spirit infused. At any rate, if there be a cloud, it is but the cloud of the day; and long after it has passed away, this glorious institution will remain with all its pristine claims to every kindness which human affections can bestow upon, perhaps, the most meritorious of classes that can appeal to private or national commiseration.

#### ASIATIC SOCIETY.

THE nineteenth anniversary of this society was held on the 7th May; Prof. H. H. Wilson, the director, in the chair. The annual report of the council began with mentioning the loss sustained by the society in the death of the Earl of Munster, its late president, whose zeal for the interests of Oriental knowledge had connected him with the society from its commencement, and whose kindness had endeared him to every one who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. The usual statement of deaths, retirements, and elections, followed this announcement. Among others, particular allusion was made to the deaths of Sir A. Burnes and of Sir T. Strange, of whom short biographical sketches were read. Some account was also read of the learned labours of Prof. Heeren of Göttingen, and of Prof. Frank of Munich. Mention was then made of some beautiful and valuable Oriental works, printed and manuscript, bequeathed to the society by the late N. B. Edmonstone, Esq., and Gen. T. Gordon; and of some Chinese works presented by Sir G. Staunton. Some valuable geological papers on the mineral resources of India were noticed, as forming part of the Journal of the society, copies of which were upon the table. The proceedings of the Oriental Translation Committee were then adverted to; and, in addition to the advancement of several works, of which portions have appeared, notices were given of the translation of the *Sama Veda*, of

the *History of Hyder Ali*, and of Ibn Khalikan's *Biographical Dictionary*, shortly to be published. The establishment of a fund for the printing of Oriental texts had been mentioned at the last anniversary; and some detail was now given of its proceedings. One volume only had been published, which was, the *Sects of Sharastani*, edited by the Rev. W. Cureton. The text of the *Sama Veda*, and that of the *Vishudhramyaka Upanishad*, are begun; and the Syriac text of the long-lost work *repl. theopaveles* of Eusebius is about to be commenced; and various other works are in active preparation.

After the reading of the report, and the exhibition of financial statements, the chairman proposed to enter on the records of the society a resolution expressing the feelings of its members at the loss of their late president, which was carried by acclamation. Sir A. Johnston then moved, "That the Right Hon. Lord Fitzgerald and Vesey should be elected president of the society, in the room of the Earl of Munster." He was of opinion that the station of his lordship, at the head of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, together with the interest which he had manifested for Eastern affairs, and his wish to forward any means by which a knowledge of India could be diffused, rendered him the fittest person for that station. The motion was seconded by Sir G. Staunton, and carried by acclamation. Votes of thanks were then passed to the officers of the institution; and the meeting proceeded to ballot for the council and officers for the ensuing year.

The following gentlemen were elected into the council, in the room of those who went out by rotation:—The Hon. W. H. L. Melville; Sir T. E. Colebrooke, Bart., M.P.; the Very Rev. the Dean of Salisbury; S. Ball, Esq.; General Caulfield; Captain Eastwick; J. Guillemard, Esq.; Colonel Leake. The officers of the preceding year were re-elected.

#### SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

May 12.—Lord Mahon in the chair. Mr. Gage Rockwood communicated a very interesting memoir on the paintings discovered in the painted chamber at Westminster; the subjects of the plates executed by the late Mr. Stothard, which are to form the next part, or fasciculus, of the *Festiva Monumenta*. The first portion only of this memoir was read, in which the author gives an introductory sketch of the history of the palace at Westminster, and some account of the artistical works executed there. He shewed that this chamber was the *magna camera*, or *camera regis* of the ancient palace, and traced the history of it, as well as of some of the chambers adjoining. He brought forward documents shewing that it was painted first in the 20th and 21st of Henry III.; and a second time, and entirely anew, after the fire which occurred in 1262. This last series appears, as we understood, to be that which was discovered a few years ago, and the remains of which are exhibited in the engravings in question.

We congratulate the society on the presence of its new vice-president, whose high reputation for literature, and whose zeal for historical research, cannot fail to reflect credit on it.

#### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK:—

Monday.—Statistical, 8 P.M.; United Service Institution, 9 P.M.; British Architects, 8 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M. Tuesday.—Horticultural, 3 P.M.; Electrical, 8 P.M.; Chemical, 8 P.M.; Pharmaceutical (anniversary meeting), 8 P.M. Wednesday.—Soc. of Arts, 8 P.M.; Geological, 8 P.M.

Friday.—Roy. Institution, 8½ P.M.; Botanical, 8 P.M. Saturday.—Mathematical, 8 P.M.

#### FINE ARTS.

##### ARTISTS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

At the anniversary on Friday,—the Earl of Arundel and Surrey in the chair (which Lord John Russell was prevented from occupying by the death of his brother),—about 150 sat down to a plentiful and handsome repast in Freemasons' Hall. The customary loyal and benevolent toasts were given, and received their due applause; and one among them being new, viz. the health of the King of Prussia, who had presented a donation of 100*l.*, was drunk with long-continued plaudits, and gracefully acknowledged by Baron von Langen, his Majesty's chamberlain. Broadhurst, assisted by the Misses Pyne and Messrs. Hawkins, &c. &c. diversified the evening with some finely executed songs and glees; and the best of all ends was attained by the collection of about 650*l.* to be added to the funds of this excellent institution.

Among the toasts, we ought perhaps to particularise that of "Prosperity to the Art-Union," which was proposed, with appropriate remarks on its tendency to encourage native art, by Mr. Uwins, R.A.; and acknowledged by Mr. Dimond, the treasurer to that, as well as to the Artists' Benevolent Association. We are rejoiced in being able to say, that the prizes are being taken out in a manner highly beneficial to some of our most rising, as well as most distinguished, artists.

One feature of the Fund merits especial notice and approbation. From the book put into our hands, we observe that no fewer than twenty-nine widows of artists—some of them of great merit as sculptors, painters, and engravers, and also, when in life, liberal subscribers and benefactors to the charity—are enjoying each an annuity of 20*l.*; whilst thirty-one orphan children, from the age of three to sixteen, whose names, familiar to the arts, proclaim them to be the offspring of well-known and esteemed parents, once occupying a highly respectable social position in our circle, have each the helpful pittance of five pounds per annum. It is sincerely to be wished that largely augmented revenues should enable the directors not only to increase the number, but augment the allowances, of these most deserving objects of our compassion and sympathy.

#### ROYAL ACADEMY.

No. 51. *The Course of the Greta through Brigand Wood*. T. Creswick.—Is a landscape of a singular green colour, but peaceful, natural, and refreshing to the eye. 180. *A River Scene*, and 496. *The Tees* (quoting "Rokeby"), are two other sweet specimens of the artist.

No. 52. *The Dogano, &c.* By J. M. W. Turner, R.A.—We are really at a loss how to approach this magician of colouring. Now he is brilliant as a Prospero, anon extravagant as a Katerfelto, and lastly, wild and mad as a Tom o' Bedlam. *The Dogano* and 73, *Campo Santo*, have a gorgeous ensemble, and produced by wonderful art, but they mean nothing. They are produced as if by throwing handfuls of white, and blue, and red, at the canvass, letting what chanced to stick, stick; and then shadowing in some forms to make the appearance of a picture. And yet there is a fine harmony in the highest range of colour to please the sense of vision; we admire, and we lament to see such genius so employed. But

"Farther on you may fare worse."

No. 182 is a *Snow-Storm* of most unintelligible character—the snow-storm of a confused dream, with a steam-boat "making signals," and (apparently, like the painter who was in it) "going by the head." Neither by land or water was such a scene ever witnessed; and of 338, *Burial at Sea*, though there is a striking effect, still the whole is so idealised and removed from truth, that instead of the feeling it ought to affect, it only excites ridicule. And No. 353 caps all before for absurdity, without even any of the redeeming qualities in the rest. It represents Buonaparte,—facetiously described as "the exile and the rock-limpet,"—standing on the sea-shore at St. Helena. He is in a sky of flame with a sea of blood, and seems to be realising on earth Southey's lines allusive to another world:—

"Buonaparte he would set out

On a summer excursion to Moscow;

Morbleu, parbleu!

When the fields were green and the sky was blue

He would go marching to Moscow!

• • • • •

But there is a place where he must go to,

Where the fields are red and the brimstone blue;

Morbleu, parbleu,

He'll find it much hotter than Moscow!"

And so has Mr. Turner represented him. He is in black military boots, the continuous reflection of which from his toes in the water give him the appearance of being erected upon two long black stilts; and the whole thing is so truly ludicrous, that the *risum teneatis* even of an Amicus is absolutely impossible. Yet one grieves that a man, who can perhaps excel in certain paths any painter that ever existed, should so misapply his vast powers; and cause the British school to mourn its sacrificed honours.

No. 59. *The Lady Glenlyon*. F. Grant.—Mr. Grant has this year overleapt himself in portraiture, and far from "falling on the other side," stands high and erect with the chief ornaments of our art. This is a beautiful portrait; beautiful in subject, and beautiful in execution.

No. 61. *Mrs. Beauclerc*, near it, is also near it in finish and effect. Both are exceedingly graceful, yet painted in a firm style and rich tone. No. 362, *The Lady Marian Afford*, is still superior as a work of skill and effect. The subject offered every requisite for the best exercise of the artist's talent, and he has happily availed himself of them. The intelligent and speaking countenance, and the full, round, but elegant form are charmingly depicted; and the whole is one of the most animated and well-painted female likenesses we have seen for many a day. No. 519, *The Earl of Cadogan*, a full-length on horseback, does not please us so well. It has a military stiffness about it, which is hardly compensated by the other pictorial merits which it does possess.

No. 63. *Portrait of the Queen*. J. Partridge. No. 171. *Prince Albert*, by the same. Court affairs, with nothing particular to require criticism.

No. 69. *Portrait of Mrs. Palleine*. H.W. Pickersgill, R.A.—Of his full number of eight pictures in the Exhibition, 111. *Two Sisters*; 133. *Sir C. Morgan*, painted for the Equitable Life Assurance Office; 165. *Capt. W. Gordon*, for the County Rooms, Aberdeen; 260. *A Gentleman, as a Pilgrim*; 354. *Richard Sanderson, Esq., M.P.*; 432. *The Rev. Dr. Ralph Lyon*; and 520. *Martin Ware, Esq.*—we have only to say, that they are painted with Mr. Pickersgill's well-known fidelity, and skilful adaptation of art to the verisimilitude of his sitters, making the most of the originals, whether they may or may not be very favourable for the display of high pictorial qualities. That they should be good



solid likenesses of naval captains in uniform, or of worthy chairmen at the head of assurance boards, is all that could be achieved; and Mr. Pickersgill has faithfully preserved the resemblances of all, with as much of embellishment as truth could allow. The *Two Sisters* are finely painted.

No. 70. *Portrait of Mrs. R. Bevan*. T. Phillips, R.A.—Mr. Phillips has seven subjects, and has lost none of his taste, feeling, or execution. This is a sweet portrait. No. 78. *The late Bishop of Winchester*,—an expressive Church dignitary; 90. *George Green, Esq.*, for the Town-hall, Poplar, also a good sound picture; 170. *Portrait of Mr. Faraday*, as fine and speaking a likeness as ever was done. The artist must have entered *con amore* into the delineation of this nobly intelligent head, so full of character, so simple, and yet so grand. It is an honour to the Exhibition, and will, we trust, be as ably engraved as it is exquisitely painted. No. 261 is another clever portrait; and 309, *Dr. Buckland*, an excellent likeness of the cheerful and benevolent countenance of the much-esteemed professor of geology.

Nos. 79, 288, 368, and 484. *Landscapes*, by F. R. Lee, R.A.—Of these charming performances, 288. *Highland Scenery*; a *snow-storm passing off*, is the most striking. This is a snow-storm, such as these wild mountain-regions see and feel. The hurried operations of humanity when such visitations occur fill the canvass with interest; the flocks in danger, the sagacious dog, the anxious shepherd, all true to Nature, give almost a classic dignity to what is so simply natural. No. 368. *Desolation*, is another piece of startling effect; and 484. *The Watling Place*, a contrast of repose and beauty. Mr. Lee's pencil deserves our admiration in this year's landscape department.

No. 84. *Faith, Hope, and Charity*. H. Howard, R.A.—We are sorry that we cannot apply the same words to this picture; but we do not consider the conception or its development to be worthy of Mr. Howard. The former is trite and commonplace, and the latter mannered. 294. *Aaron slaying the Plague*, also falls short of our expectations.

No. 97. *Scene from Twelfth-Night*. C. R. Leslie, R.A.—A perfect Leslie. Piquant in character, and pencilled with a sharpness and quaintness quite in keeping with the Shaksperian text. Sir Andrew and Sir Toby impersonate our ideas of these personages, and "good Mrs. Accost" between the two is as necessary and proper as a shuttlecock between two battle-dores. The colouring is excellent, and the finish careful and effective. No. 148. *Scene from Henry VIII.* Queen Catherine bidding her attendant take the lute, &c., is of graver import, but designed with equal success, full of melancholy expression combined with dignity, and touching to look upon.

(To be continued.)

### SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

#### MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON'S SOIRÉE.

The noble president of the Royal Society gave his first *soirée* for the season on Saturday, at his mansion in Piccadilly, which was brilliantly attended. Among the literary men present, we were gratified to meet Washington Irving, looking in excellent health, and somewhat stouter than when he left us some years ago. The muster of our native *littérati*, and men of every science, was numerous and distinguished; and the Church and State supplied an equivalent number of their dignitaries, to complete an assemblage of the highest and most

interesting character. A sprinkling of court-dresses and splendid uniforms imparted animation to the scene; and the refreshments were such as displayed the hospitable liberality of the noble president.

### ORIGINAL POETRY.

#### THE SPELLS OF A NAME.

A NAME!—we hear it in the crowd,  
And startle at the sound,  
And pause, and for a while we heed  
No more the mirth around.

A name!—we meet it on the leaf,  
Perhaps written carelessly,  
And yet no other word but that  
Upon the page we see.

A name!—we breathe it in our dream,  
And in the spirit's prayer;  
Look on the tablet of the soul,  
It is recorded there.

A name!—it sends the shadowy cloud  
To dim the brighten'd eye,  
And all beneath its power may fade,  
And all before it die.

A name!—it will recall the past  
As with a magic spell,  
Youth, hope, and love, and blessed tones,  
And many a sad farewell.

A name!—we hear it, and we grow  
More faint, and sad, and weak,  
While pallid hues, death's gloomy shade,  
Are gathering o'er the cheek.

A name!—O it hath fearful pow'r;  
Grief, thought, and tears to bring;  
We gaze upon one treasure'd name,  
And turn aside to weep.

EMMA B—.

### THE DRAMA.

*Her Majesty's Theatre*.—The appearance of Signora Frezzolini as *Lucrezia Borgia*, and of Poggi, her husband, as *Gennaro*, made a fair opera evening on Saturday. Doctors' certificates are flying about, right and left, to make it be believed that singers, whenever they like, can be too ill to perform their parts. Our hint last week was not quite thrown away.

*English Opera House*.—A well-selected vaudeville company commenced a summer campaign here on Monday; and we trust they will meet success proportionate to their merits. Charles Dance's well-known *Beulah Spa* was the opening; J. Vining, Brougham, F. Matthews, and Miss Pincott, playing their original parts; and Mrs. H. P. Grattan appearing to much advantage in that so admirably performed by Vestris. Three novelties followed; the first a ballet, in which Gilbert, Miss Ballin, and Master and Miss Marshall danced well and merrily for half an hour; the second a smart farce, in which Walter Lacey and F. Matthews shewed their "enthusiasm" by carrying it to a prosperous close; and the last a *Fitzballian* melo-drama, with some good situations and devilry, but over long, in which Diddear, Oxberry, and Miss Jane Mordant did every thing in their power for the author. The same performances have been repeated nightly since.

*German Opera*.—On Monday evening Gluck's *Iphigenia in Tauris* was the opera given, and to the scientific musician proved a high treat, although, doubtless, many came away impressed with the thought of its dullness as a composition, and yet delighted with the remembrance of bits here and there. Of the latter, supremely were the opening and concluding choruses, and the air *Nur einen Wunsch*, sung by Herr Arbresch as *Pylades*, to whom, by the way, the sweetest music falls, and, in his case, into good hands. The air elicited an *encore*, which the deep feeling and rich harmony of Arbresch's voice fully deserved. *Iphigenia*, Agamemnon's daughter and Diana's priestess, could not have

had a better representative than in Madame Stoeckl Heinfetter; both her singing and acting were first-rate. Staudigl, as *Thoas*, had little to do or sing, but he did his little all with his usual excellence, and brought out more prominently the character of the priest than had it been cast differently. Herr Eichberger's voice is pleasing, but not powerful; and he should beware of forcing it.

On Thursday, a bad night, when every body of fashion was, or wished to be thought to be, at court, Spontini's fine opera of *Die Fæstlin* was produced here to a melancholy show of empty benches. It was nevertheless well performed; and ought, we think, under more fortunate auspices, to attract the attention of lovers of sweet music with less of the clap-trap to which we are too much accustomed.

*French Plays*.—The *début* of Dejazet, smart, lively, and piquant, has added new interest and a harvest of amusement to the French Plays. Her *Vert Vert*, or *Pet of the Petticoats*, is a charming bit of comic talent and fun.

*Società Armonica*.—Mesdames Persiani and Ronconi and Sig. G. Ronconi were the vocalists at the fourth of these subscription-concerts on Monday evening, which was opened by Beethoven's symphony No. 2, D major, by the full orchestra in fine style. By them also were played two overtures of Weber, and that of Rossini's *Guillaume Tell*, which was encored, and the latter movement repeated. It was admirably given: as also a septetto, Beethoven, by Loder, Lazarus, Baumann, Jarrett, J. Loder, Lindley, and Howell. The instrumental masterpiece of the evening, however, was the fantasia, clarinet, by Sig. Cavellini. We have already spoken of the skill displayed and the power obtained over this difficult instrument by this *débütant* of the present season; but we cannot refrain from repeating our admiration of his execution, and of his complete command over the tones and tune of the clarinet. Hitherto, in spite of skilful management, a squeak from the clarinet would ever and anon be heard; but with his, all are subjected, whether forte or piano, to perfect harmony; and his runs are truly wonderful. Madame Persiani was encored in Mozart's *Batti Batti*, with Lindley's violoncello obligato: she was in good voice. So also was Sig. Ronconi, but evidently with great difficulty and exertion: he seemed distressed and suffering severely. The vocalists announced for the fifth concert are Madlle. Molteni and Signors Mario and Lablache.

At the Hanover Square Rooms, on Friday the 6th, the repetition of Haydn's *Seasons*, as given last year, attracted a good audience. The music was excellently played and sung.

### VARIETIES.

The British Association assembles on Thursday, June 23, at Manchester, where, as we stated several weeks ago, an ample fund has been subscribed to provide for its suitable reception and liberal entertainment.

Catlin's North-American Exhibition, one of the most interesting ever seen in London, will be closed about the middle of the week after next. We have so often spoken of its great attractions, that we have nothing to add; and only hope this notice will put our friends, and especially our young friends, in mind of an opportunity which, if missed, can never be found again.

*Egyptian Mummy*.—Mr. Pettigrew announces the opening of a very promising mummy on Wednesday evening next.

*The Strawberry Hill Sale* proceeds with augmenting returns. The Raphael Missal was, however, knocked down at 110 guineas; the Julio Clovio Psalter at 420 guineas; and the Cellini Bell at 240 guineas. It is supposed that all three have been bought in.

*Chinese Exhibition.*—The building recently erected at Knightsbridge for the reception of an extensive collection of models, instruments, productions, &c., &c., to illustrate the curious habits, industrial and social, of the ancient people of the celestial empire, is rapidly approaching completion. The site is that formerly occupied by the foot-barracks; the entrance, just opposite the footway to the Park, will be the representation either of a Chinese pagoda or a Joss-house.

*Caligraphy.*—Among our advertisements will be found one of Mr. Craik, who practises the art of caligraphy, at Dumfries, in a style surpassing any thing that can be imagined to be executed by the hand and pen. His facility is absolutely incredible even after twenty years practice; and specimens in the possession of her Majesty and of the Bank of England have justly attracted great admiration. But we notice the subject rather with the view to mention a new purpose to which the art has been put by Mr. Craik, viz. to the production of beautiful ornamental designs for the papering of drawing-rooms, museums, libraries, &c. &c. Examples of these, which Mr. C. executes with extraordinary rapidity, have been submitted to us; and we have rarely seen any thing of such entire novelty which could be employed in certain situations with an effect so uncommonly appropriate and pleasing.

*Tulip-Show.*—Mr. Groom's tulip-show this year, removed from Wandsworth to Clapham Rise, has been open during the last few days; and exhibited specimens of extraordinary variety, beauty, and perfection. Multitudes have flocked to witness the superb flowers, single roots of some of which sell for a hundred guineas; and the price of a whole bed is a moderate fortune!

*Charterhouse-Square Infirmary.*—At the anniversary of this excellent charity, on the 29th ultimo, the persuasions of the Lord Mayor in the president's seat, and a very eloquent speech by Mr. Pownall, produced a subscription to the amount of no less than 600*l.* which will, we trust, enable Mr. Salmon, the surgeon and founder of the institution, and his truly benevolent supporters, to enlarge and improve their accommodations for sufferers. One of the most interesting events of the evening was, the announcement of a subscription of 25 guineas from patients who had been cured at the Infirmary, and who, by contributing six shillings each per annum, have been able to offer, last year 30*l.*, and this year the above-mentioned sum, to the charity from which they had derived so blessed a service. Another incident deserves mention: in the midst of the proceedings, one of the waiters produced a valuable diamond stud, which he had found on the floor; and the Lord Mayor, paying a just tribute to his honesty, proclaimed the fact, in order that the owner might recover his property. We hope the conduct of this individual was marked with something more than praise—a little solid pudding, *pour encourager les autres.*

*Steam-accidents.*—With great improvements often come great dangers, as has been shewn in a melancholy way by two fatal accidents recorded in the newspapers of the week. In America, we learn that a fine steamer, the Medora, has been blown up by the bursting of her boiler, and many lives lost; and from

France we learn that, owing to a similar cause, the railway-train, laden with holiday-passengers from a *fête* at Versailles for Paris, has met with a frightful calamity, destroying sixty or eighty persons, and maiming and burning others in a dreadful manner. Among those who have perished is Rear-Admiral D'Urville, the circumnavigator, whose discoveries in the southern hemisphere were preparing for publication.

*Hamburgh* too, the rich and industrious commercial city, has been desolated by a fire resembling that of the great fire of London in extent and destructiveness. Hence England was threatened (we believe a *brutum fulmen*) with meat at 3*d.* per lb.; yet we trust, for the sake of the suffering population, it may be procurable at that moderate price.

*Sir Charles Bell*, the eminent surgeon and medical and philosophical author, died rather suddenly at Hallon Hall, near Worcester, where he was visiting, on Friday fortnight. His *Treatise on the Hand, Animal Mechanics, Anatomy of Painting*, &c. &c., are works of sterling importance. Sir Charles received the honour of knighthood in 1831.

*Mr. Healey*, a musical composer of considerable talent, and well known in the theatrical circles as leader of the orchestras at the Adelphi and other minor theatres, died suddenly a few evenings ago, whilst laboriously engaged in a composition for the Surrey theatre, near which he resided. He has left a widow and family to deplore his loss.

*Pronunciation.*—The names of the performers in the German opera appear to be a sore tax upon English organs. A rather pompous acquaintance of ours has nearly Anglified them, and pronounces Staudin, Gneiffetter, Pichon, Döring, Derossi, Fraulein Gned—Stewed Eagle, Hen Feather, Pigeon, Door Ring, Dear Assy, and For hauling Ned.

*A Toast.*—The best toast given at the Boz dinner, at the City Hotel, was the following: it has never before been correctly published.

—“An international copyright law: authors should live by their works; for though they have laurels on their brows, they cannot browse on their laurels.” This is the toast which called out Mr. C. Mathews' soporific speech. The joke of the matter lies in this: the author of it is strongly opposed to an international copyright law, but is one who will “go his death” for a play upon a word.—*American New World.*

#### LITERARY NOVELTIES.

*In the Press.*—Dr. Mantell's Introduction to the Wonders of Geology; also his Lectures on the Nervous System.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

*The Knights' Templars*, by C. G. Addison, Esq., 2d edition, much enlarged, medium 8vo, 18s.—First Additional Supplement to London's Encyclopedia of Cottage, Farm, and Villa Architecture, &c., with nearly 300 Engravings, 7s. 6*d.*—The Breeds of the Domesticated Animals of Great Britain, by D. Low, F.R.S.E., 2 vols. 4to, with 52 beautifully coloured Plates, 16*l.* 16s. half-bound mor.—Course of Civil Engineering, comprising Plane Trigonometry, Surveying, and Levelling, by J. Gregory, Vol. I. 8vo, 10s. 6*d.*—On the Use and Study of History, by W. T. McCullagh, LL.B., 8vo, 7s. 6*d.*—Aménities of Literature, by J. Dyer, 2d edit. 3 vols. 8vo, 24s.—Mrs. Marcet's Game of Grammar, done up as a vol. in cloth, or in a varnished wooden box, &c.—The Nervous System and its Functions, by H. Mayo, F.R.S., post 8vo, 6s. 6*d.*—The War in Syria, by Commodore Sir C. Napier, 2 vols. post 8vo, 18s.—Treatise on Fresco, Encaustic, and Tempera Painting, by E. Latilla, 8vo, 5s.—Village Penicillings, in Prose and Verse, by Elizabeth Pierce, post 8vo, 10s.—History of the Earldoms of Strathern, Monteith, and Airth, by Sir H. Nicolas, 8vo, 12s.—The Connexion between Physiology and Intellectual Philosophy, by J. Barlow, 12mo, 3s. 6*d.*—Codex Exoniensis: a Collection of Anglo-Saxon Poetry, with an English Translation, by B. Thorpe, royal 8vo, 20s.—The Accordance of Religion with Nature, by the Rev.

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